

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Guerrilla actions spotlight
unrest in Mexico

— PAGE 3

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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U.S. hands off Iraq now!

Socialist Workers candidates condemn assault, call for protests

The following statement was released September 3 by the Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice president, James Harris and Laura Garza. Harris gave a press conference on the issue in St. Paul, Minnesota, that day.

The brutal bombing of Iraq ordered by the U.S. administration of William Clinton today, with complete backing from Robert Dole and a bipartisan congress, should be met with condemnation by working people and fighting youth around the world. Our campaign urges protest actions, picket lines, and informational meetings be held in every city possible against Washington's murder.

Continued on Page 14



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Emergency rallies like this September 3 picket in New York protested war move

Clinton bombs Iraq with solid bipartisan support

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

With solid bipartisan support, the Clinton administration launched a military assault against Iraq September 3.

Under the pretext of protecting the Kurdish population in northern Iraq, President William Clinton ordered two rounds of cruise missile strikes, expanded the imperialist-enforced "no-fly zone" in the south to the edge of Baghdad, and threatened further attacks. He announced that limited oil sales by the Iraqi government were now frozen.

As U.S.-led forces began their expanded air patrols over southern Iraq, a U.S. F-16 warplane attacked an Iraqi radar station September 4.

The White House quickly proclaimed the U.S. military move a success later that day, pointing to the withdrawal of most Iraqi troops.

Continued on Page 8

Protests say, stop the bombing

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

NEW YORK CITY—The day Washington launched 27 cruise missiles into Iraqi territory, 200 people joined a picket line in Times Square to protest Washington's war actions.

Arshad Al Rasheed, who is of Kurdish origin and arrived here from Baghdad 25 years ago, marched because "The U.S. shouldn't get involved in the internal affairs of Iraq," he said. Al Rasheed was part of protests here in 1990-91, against the U.S.

bombing and invasion of Iraq, which resulted in more than 150,000 deaths. He expressed outrage at the U.S. decision to extend the "no-fly zone." "Imagine," he gestured, "that New York City is the capital, and someone tells you no plane may fly past the river!"

Adel, from Jordan until recently, said, "I was in the Middle East in 1990, and was in the protests [against the U.S. assault on Iraq] there." He explained his view that "American intervention is the cause of the continuation of the suffering of the people of the Mideast. Whether it is Latin America or the Middle East, they claim to intervene in the name of democracy, but everywhere they intervene, it is worse."

The theme of opposition to U.S. intervention around the world was picked up by Antonio Maestre from Casa de las Américas. Addressing the crowd, Maestre said, "We are struggling to end the blockade of Cuba." He added, "the Cuban people are united against U.S. intervention and stand together with the people of Iraq."

Other speakers included Miguel Maldonado from the Association of Immigrant Workers, who was actively building the October 12 march for immigrant rights among the crowd.

A representative of the Hospital Employees and

Continued on Page 14

France: 15,000 rally for immigrants

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — Some 15,000 demonstrators hit the streets of Paris August 28, for the third time in a week, to support the struggle of 300 undocumented workers who were brutally expelled from the St. Bernard church five days earlier.

The immigrants, mostly from Africa, had been occupying the church demanding regular residency papers. More than 200 of them were arrested.

As the march began at the *Place de la République* (Republic square), two French military planes took off from a heavily guarded base with their cargoes of undocumented immigrants being deported to Tunisia, Mali, Senegal, and Zaïre. This was the second such convoy this week. By the beginning of September, seven of those occupying the church have been expelled along with several hundred other immigrants. Since January, 7,500 immigrants

have been deported from France.

To the great embarrassment of the government, mass pressure forced the courts to order the release of almost all of the 200 immigrants arrested during the police assault on the St. Bernard church.

In great haste, the regime rushed the deportation of seven immigrants only to find they had mistakenly sent two citizens of Senegal to Mali and that another deportee was the father of a French citizen and is technically a legal resident.

Berké Camara, a political refugee from Mauritania, was one of the three last protesters being detained by police. "At 8 o'clock in the morning I was told 'you are free,'" he said. "But the police put me in a bus and took me to Roissy airport. There, I insisted that I did not want to be returned to Mauritania. The passengers started to get out of the plane to see what was going on

Continued on Page 12

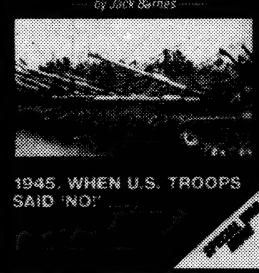
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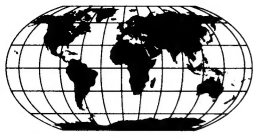
St. Louis strikers march on Labor Day



Militant/Jim Garrison

A contingent of 250 striking McDonnell Douglas workers and supporters marched in the annual St. Louis Labor Day parade, receiving loud applause and support along the route. Labor Day marked the 90th day of the strike that began June 5 over a number of issues, including the company's right to outsource jobs.

Immigrant workers protest INS raids in Iowa — page 7



IN BRIEF

Paris stocks tumble

The French franc and the Paris stock market took a tumble August 29, causing the jitters among rulers there and big business across Europe. The franc slipped to a five-month low against the German mark before recovering among rumors of Bank of France intervention to end the day only slightly down. Paris stocks were hit harder, with the benchmark CAC-40 index falling below the 2,000 level at 1,977 — a 1.3 percent loss.

The news came amidst reports that unemployment could set a new record this year and expectations that gross domestic product figures for the second quarter will reveal little if any economic growth. Meanwhile, thousands of farmers have blockaded roads and marched and rallied at the Eiffel Tower in Paris with their cattle herds, demanding the government help compensate them for a 30 percent drop in beef prices.

Zimbabwe strikers make gains

When the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions threatened to hold a general strike across the country, the government backed down to the demands of the 180,000-strong civil service strikers, offering a 20 percent pay raise. Union leaders said August 29 they would propose an end to the week-long strike only if the government reinstates all dismissed workers, makes a pledge to not discriminate against strike leaders, and award retroactive pay from the beginning of the walkout.

Tamil rebels overrun cop station

Tamil rebels overran a police station and attacked a village in eastern Sri Lanka August 29. At least 27 people, including 20 policemen, died in the fighting. The rebels overwhelmed the police post with grenades and machine gun fire, setting the building ablaze. This was the largest rebel assault in more than a month. Fighting had died down after thousands on both sides were killed when the guerrillas overran a northern military base. Tamil rebels are fighting for a homeland in the northeast because of systematic discrimination and denial of Tamil national rights. More than 45,000 people have died since the conflict erupted in 1983.



Protesters against U.S. military bases in Okinawa rally at a Tokyo park after Japan's Supreme Court ordered land owners to renew leases to the U.S. military August 28.

Forced leasing in Japan

On August 28, Japan's highest court ordered 35 Okinawa land owners to continue leasing property to the U.S. military, which occupies one fifth of the island. Growing opposition to Washington's presence in the country reached its peak when a school girl was raped and three U.S. servicemen were convicted in the assault. Many Okinawans blame the U.S. military for increased crime, noise, and pollution. A referendum on the continuance of U.S. bases on the island is scheduled for September 8. Okinawa's governor Masahide Ota has refused to extend forced leases until after the referendum.

Strikes erupt in Venezuela

Police fired tear gas, water cannon, and rubber bullets to break up a protest by several thousand public employees who blocked traffic on a main highway in Caracas, Venezuela, August 29. Two fire fighters participating in the demonstration were injured. The workers initially attempted to march to

the presidential palace to protest the government's failure to award promised wage increases, but were blocked by cops. Instead they went to the thoroughfare and stopped traffic for more than an hour.

The day before thousands of workers walked off their jobs in a 24-hour strike to demand bonuses and wage increases agreed to last April. Many workers have not received raises in more than a year, despite inflation of 112 percent. The government claims it needs more time to come up with the money.

U.S.: new record of deportations

The August 30 *Washington Post* reported that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has deported a record number of undocumented immigrant workers in 1996 with two months remaining in the fiscal year. Through July 31, the INS had deported 54,362 "illegal aliens." The number is more than double the deportations in 1990 and exceeds last year's record of 50,600. The INS has set a goal of 62,000 "alien removals" for fiscal 1996, which ends September 30, and is 90 percent of the way toward its target. The number of deportations of undocumented immigrants has risen steadily in the 1990s, with 42,000 and 45,000 expelled to their countries of origin in 1993 and 1994 respectively.

Cops not liable in MOVE case

On August 27, a U.S. federal judge overturned a civil jury's damage awards of \$1 a week against two former Philadelphia officials involved in the fatal 1985 police bombing of the headquarters of MOVE, a Black rights organization in the city. The judge claimed former police commissioner Gregore Sambor and former fire commis-

sioner William Richmond could not be held personally liable for the bombing that caused the deaths of 11 people, five of whom were children. But the \$1.5 million award against the city was upheld.

The original verdicts were handed down June 24 in a federal lawsuit by MOVE member Ramona Africa, the only adult survivor of the blaze, and by the families of two who died. Richmond said he was relieved by the decision while Africa expressed disappointment in the failure to hold the officials liable.

Citadel admits women

After three years of fighting four young women were admitted into the Citadel August 24, ending 153 years of male-only enrollment in the cadet corps of the U.S. military academy. The new recruits will be housed in a dorm renovated to accommodate women. The fight ended with a Supreme Court decision declaring no public school could have single-sex education. The decision leaves Virginia Military Institute as the only publicly financed college in the United States that has refused to accept women. "It's incredible that it is happening, but it's incredible that it has taken so long," said Deanna Caveny, a spokeswoman for 52%, a local women's rights group.

Alabama bans gay marriage

Alabama governor Fob James signed an executive order at the end of August banning gay marriage. The American Civil Liberties Union denounced the measure as "wrong and unconstitutional." James based his decision on the rulings of the state attorney general that prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages. Such bans have been adopted in Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Utah. U.S. president William Clinton has said he opposes same-sex marriages and would sign a bill denying official marital status to gay and lesbian couples.

Canadian auto union officials target Chrysler, predict strike

Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) officials announced August 28 they picked Chrysler Canada Ltd. as the union's strike target to set a pattern for negotiating a new labor contract with the Big Three auto giants. CAW president Buzz Hargrove said he was reluctant to pick either General Motors or Ford Motor Co. since the United Auto Workers (UAW) in the United States is in the process of choosing one of these two companies as its target. Labor contracts in the Big Three expire September 16 in both countries. The CAW set a deadline of September 17 to reach an agreement with Chrysler or begin a strike. Hargrove said there is "a snowball's chance in hell" that the CAW will sign contracts this fall with the three auto makers without a walkout.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

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Workers resting at banana grove of farm cooperative, Artemisa, near Havana, Feb. 1996.

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Mexico: guerrilla actions spotlight unrest

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Just when foreign capitalist investors thought it was safe to go back to Mexico, a new guerrilla organization made its appearance with a series of armed actions in several Mexican states. The shock waves have put a spotlight on rising peasant protests throughout Mexico's countryside.

The guerrilla group, the People's Revolutionary Army (EPR), announced its existence June 28 during a rally in the mountain village of Aguas Blancas, Guerrero, commemorating a massacre of 17 peasants by the state police.

Fifty armed guerrillas appeared at the rally, which had been organized by the Organization of Peasants of the Southern Sierra (OCSS), whose members were murdered on June 18, 1995, on their way to an OCSS demonstration. While the two groups are not related, many local peasants welcomed the guerrillas, who read a statement and then melted into the hills.

Since then the EPR has carried out several ambushes of army garrisons in Guerrero. On August 28 it carried out coordinated attacks on police and army posts in the southern states of Oaxaca and Guerrero and the central state of Mexico, while in Chiapas it blocked a major highway and distributed literature. The group deployed scores of combatants and apparently took few casualties.

On August 7, four EPR leaders held a press conference in the eastern mountains near the Gulf of Mexico, where they released a document, the Manifesto of the Sierra Madre Oriental, later published in several Mexican newspapers. The rebel commanders said the organization was founded in May 1994 and is made up of 14 organizations, including groups of peasants and Indians.

The EPR manifesto calls for overthrowing the current regime and replacing it with a "revolutionary government" that will carry out a range of demands. Among these are: renegotiating Mexico's huge foreign debt, an agrarian reform to confiscate big landed estates, return communal lands to farm families, and extend credit and other aid to peasants; autonomy for indigenous peoples; equal rights for women; an end to police and army repression; rights for immigrants and refugees in Mexico, such as Guatemalans; and unemployment insurance.

The document proposes nationalizing "the strategic sectors of the economy and natural resources of the country, as well as the property of the big domestic and international monopolies."

The rebel commanders said they respected the Chiapas-based Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) — which has engaged in a cease-fire and negotiations with the government since October 1995 — but that the EPR would not agree to similar talks with the regime.

Government deploys army

The government of President Ernesto Zedillo, while trying to downplay the importance of the EPR, mobilized thousands of soldiers to the southern states. In his September 1 state of the union address, originally planned as self-congratulation on the country's economic upturn, Zedillo con-

demned the EPR as terrorists and said his government would use "all the force of the state" to crack down on it.

In Guerrero authorities arrested eight young members of the OCSS and accused them of being guerrillas. The peasants later testified state police had tortured them while ordering them to confess to being EPR members.

The Mexico City daily *La Jornada* reported that the U.S. government is preparing to send 20 UH-1H "Huey" military helicopters to the Mexican air force, officially for use against drug traffickers.

Meanwhile, government, church, and bourgeois political leaders, as well as many left-wing organizations, joined the chorus of condemnations of the new guerrilla group as "violent" in contrast with what they term the more "reasonable" EZLN. Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, leader of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), one of the main capitalist parties, labeled the June 28 proclamation by the EPR a "provocative act."

"In this country at this time the method of armed struggle is inappropriate," PRD leader Pablo Gómez opined.

Some working people took a different view. "They have a reason to take up arms, because the government ignores the necessities of the community — infrastructure, electricity, water, and phones," said Reyes Vicencio, 31, a member of the restaurant workers union in Guerrero.

The guerrilla attacks, the biggest since the EZLN-led peasant rebellion in Chiapas in early 1994, terrified government officials, who have been working hard to coax foreign investors back to Mexico since the collapse of the peso in December 1994.

The Zedillo government is bragging about a surge in economic growth — a 7.2 percent increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) — for the first time since the deep 1995 recession. "Mexico Pays Its Debts," the *New York Times* cheered in a July 28 editorial after the Zedillo regime announced it was repaying most of the \$12.5 billion borrowed from Washington in the bailout engineered by the Clinton administration after the peso collapse.

In return for a promised \$50 billion in "loan guarantees" cobbled together by Washington at the beginning of 1995, the U.S. rulers wrested an agreement from the Mexican government that all revenues from the state-owned oil monopoly Pemex would



Peasants whose relatives were killed at Guerrero massacre protest outside Mexican Senate. New guerrilla attacks highlight rising protests in Mexican countryside.

be deposited in an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York before being transferred to Mexico — or seized in the case of a loan default.

Harsh austerity plan

The Zedillo regime has carried out a harsh austerity plan to repay the loans and make interest payments on the country's foreign debt — now \$98 billion, or 38 percent of Mexico's GDP. The government imposed a cap on wage increases well below the rate of inflation, increased the highly regressive sales tax from 10 to 15 percent, and raised many fees for public services.

Meanwhile, the gap between the wealthy capitalist minority in Mexico, on one hand, and working people and layers of the middle classes, on the other, has grown. While Mercedes-Benz sales to rich Mexicans rose 50 percent over last year, real wages for workers fell in May for the 16th consecutive month, 9 percent below what they were a year earlier. In the same period, the number of working people classified as living in extreme poverty grew to 22 million, up by 5 million — this in a nation of 92 million.

The social crisis and increasingly visible class inequalities have led to growing revolts. A feature article in the July 20 *New York Times* reported that recently, when a

train loaded with corn passed through a shantytown outside the northern city of Monterrey, residents halted it while families rushed out to fill sacks of grain. In June, a train full of wheat was sacked in the northern state of Durango.

"The train robbery near Monterrey was reminiscent of the 1910 Revolution, when peasants routinely assaulted trains," *Times* reporter Anthony DePalma observed.

DePalma also described a scene in Tepoztlán, south of Mexico City. "One simmering Sunday in May, a hundred peasant farmers stormed a luxurious hillside mansion here and, in a scene out of an old newsreel of the 1910 Revolution, pounded on the gates with machetes and their clenched fists until the wealthy owners abandoned their brunch and fled."

The farmers took over the Quinta Piedra estate, saying it was purchased illegally and belonged to the peasant community. They drew up a list of other illegally acquired properties in the area and are demanding return of the land.

"We tried to talk to the rich people but they never paid attention to us," said Nicanor Demesa Ortiz, one of the peasants who took over Quinta Piedra. "But what we did here was to show that no one, no matter how powerful or influential, is immune to the power of the people or to what is right."

Irish nationalists advance freedom struggle

BY JEAN LOUIS SALFATI
AND MARCELLA FITZGERALD

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — The last weekend of August marked the continued advance of the struggle of the oppressed Catholic population in the British occupied north of Ireland. Unionist marches that were planned to force their way through predominantly Catholic towns and villages, were in every case held back and limited by the organized resistance of residents in each area.

In Strabane, only 11 Royal Black Preceptory (RBP) men attempted to march in face of 300 protesters. In Newry, they made a last minute decision to re-route the march after a standoff with several hundred residents the previous evening. RBP men were turned back from the Lower Ormeau Road by police who banned the march early in the week. In Pomeroy, Dunloy, and Derg the marches were restricted by protests.

According to many people we interviewed, the number of loyalist demonstrations held in the north of Ireland in the marching season — which runs from March to October in Belfast — has tripled in the last few years to 3,000.

These actions are aimed at preserving the caste-type system of domination through which Protestants are treated preferentially to Catholics. This system is the cornerstone to British rule. Several residents said it would be like the Ku Klux Klan marching through Black neighborhoods in the South of the United States at the time of Jim Crow segregation.

Loyalists usually come in buses to a 90-95 percent Catholic area and march through it while the local residents are held in their homes and behind police lines to allow the parade through. The character of the demonstration is illustrated by the regalia, flags, and political songs that are sung.

Shouts celebrating the murders of Catholics in the local area are flung in the face of those held back by the police. Before the protests, the marchers would stay in the area for several hours both morning and evening. This disruption of social life, with shops and businesses staying closed, people being unable to get to work or go about their business is enforced by a massive show of force by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) with roadblocks, armoured vehicles, and batons.

Over this summer, the campaign to re-route the marches away from nationalist areas and establish that demonstrators can only be held with the consent of those living in the area, has grown stronger and more organized. Leading up to the August 31-September 1 weekend, meetings to coordinate resistance were held in many towns the loyalists had targeted for parades.

We were in Bellaghy August 31 where the residents committee had forced the local unit of the Royal Black Preceptory to ask for their consent to the route of their march. John O'Neill of the residents committee explained that this followed a summer where the town's residents had been baton charged off the streets six times since July as they protested against unionist marches through their village. After the last RUC assault on August 10, residents reappeared in even greater numbers the next morning and sat down in the street for 19 hours to prevent the marchers coming through.

On August 28, RBP representatives signed an agreement with the residents that they would only march a restricted route, stay briefly in the Orange Hall, and sing only hymns. No one can recall any signed agreement between unionists and nationalists being made ever before.

On the morning of August 31, residents came out to ensure that the agreement was adhered to by the Royal Black Preceptory. Most of the 50 or so loyalists did in fact come into the village, assemble at the Orange Hall and then march the agreed route back to their buses. They sang only hymns.

One loyalist, however, Herbert Cowan, did come out early and march in full regalia the length of the village. He told Margaret McKenna, another member of the residents committee, that he was part of no agreement. No one from the Preceptory called this individual to order. Residents were so angry at this breach of the agreement, that they demanded the individual be removed from the march that evening. The loyalists usually return in the evening to march again before they go home.

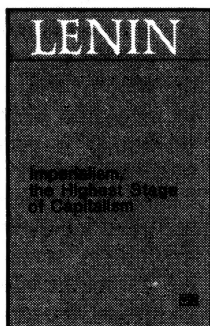
The widespread resistance among Catholics that has spread throughout the province since the unionist riot at Drumcree in July has made the British government and its supporters here desperate to avoid confrontations. The RBP did in fact agree to remove Cowan from the march. Some 200 residents turned out to check, and appointed four "peace observers" from outside the village to stand across the point the unionists were allowed to approach. But when the RBP men arrived at the Orange Hall they played God Save the Queen, the British national anthem, in breach of the agreement. Residents immediately sat down and raised a storm of noise to drown it out.

Speaking the next day in Strabane at a commemoration for those who have died on active service in the Irish Republican Army, Sinn Féin representative Martin McGuinness said that the resistance to the loyalist marches this summer represented a "restoration of the dignity of the nationalist community."

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Socialists make progress in gaining ballot status

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

BOSTON — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Campaign from Chicago, New York, and Salt Lake City have joined supporters from New England to launch a campaign to get the presidential ticket of James Harris and Laura Garza on the ballot in Vermont. Campaign supporters are fanning out in that state, as well as in Boston and Rhode Island, to distribute a campaign statement condemning the U.S. war against Iraq and to sell books explaining the issues. These efforts go hand-in-hand with campaigning to collect the signatures necessary to place the Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot.

The efforts of a team of full-time campaigners will build on the work of New England supporters who collected over 200 signatures in Montpelier, Vermont, on Labor Day. In addition to collecting signatures, the campaign team sold four Pathfinder pamphlets — *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific, Genocide Against the Indians, Socialism and Individual Freedom, and Puerto Rico: U.S. Colony in the Caribbean*, and signed up 12 young people who were interested in the campaign.

Campaign supporter Mary Nell Bockman reports talking to "one young farmer whose Russian family had emigrated to this country by way of Cuba, who was very interested in talking about the crisis facing family farmers and on our perspective of building a fighting alliance of workers and farmers." One thousand signatures are required, and the socialists aim to file 2,000 by the deadline of September 19.

Campaigners are also wrapping up a ballot drive in Rhode Island. During the petitioning there were more than 40 people who signed up for more information about the socialist campaign and the Young Socialists. Two young people met with socialist candidates from Massachusetts and New York in a local coffee shop. Abraham, whose

parents came here from the Dominican Republic, was interested in working to build the October 12 demonstration in defense of immigrant rights. He invited the socialists to participate in a Dominican festival the following day, where they collected more signatures and sold four Pathfinder titles in Spanish.

BY JEFF POWERS

SEATTLE — The Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) voted at the end of August to grant the Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign an exemption from disclosing the names of their financial contributors and vendors. The ruling was nearly identical to decisions made by the Commission in 1991, 1992, and 1993.

Last October, Phil Studzman, compliance and enforcement coordinator for the PDC, wrote the Socialist Workers Campaign stating, "The staff would be in favor of adding a statement to the 1993 Order making it clear that the Public Disclosure Commission maintains the right to examine books and records of the applicant...."

"Without such a right, the Commission has no way of knowing whether the information that is being submitted is accurate," Studzman wrote. "The staff would be supportive of keeping any information reviewed confidential, unless such information became evidence in an enforcement hearing where the applicant was named a respondent."

The Socialist Workers Campaign objected to the state commission proposal, citing decades-long harassment of their activities by government agencies. The socialists explained that the campaign has won an exemption from disclosing financial records precisely because past government interference violated the democratic rights of contributors.

The Socialist Workers Campaign contacted the American Civil Liberties Union



Militant/ Joel Britton

Socialist Workers campaign supporters petitioning in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

(ACLU), who agreed with the party's objection and assigned attorney Mark Eide to the case.

The Socialist Workers Campaign presented 10 affidavits to the PDC detailing harassment of campaign supporters by local police and other individuals over the last year.

"The party takes, what are considered by many, controversial stands on issues," Eide wrote in a letter to the PDC. "Supporters and business owners who deal with the party in providing campaign material have either been threatened or fear reprisals against their companies because of their connection with the party. Disclosure of the names and addresses of vendors, suppliers of goods and services, and financial contributors run a very real and historically substantial risk of chilling free speech and the democratic process."

The vote at the Public Disclosure Commission meeting was unanimous in favor of the Socialist Workers Campaign exemption.

The Socialist Workers Campaign won an exemption from disclosing names of contributors to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) in 1979. That exemption has been renewed twice since, and the campaign

will submit a new extension request to the FEC this fall.

BY AMY HUSK

BRONX, New York — Defenders of democratic rights won a victory here September 4, when charges were dismissed against three supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign in a Bronx courthouse. The three campaigners — Wendy Lyons, Paco Sanchez, and Priscilla Schenk — were detained by police August 4 at Orchard Beach Park in the Bronx while petitioning to get James Harris and Laura Garza on the ballot in New York state. Their petitions and other literature were confiscated and they were charged with "unlawful solicitation" and "assemblies, meetings, and other exhibitions."

The three socialist campaigners were represented by Beth Haroules of the New York Civil Liberties Union. Haroules said in an interview she was pleased to see a case where the "judge recognized the bogus nature of the charges. The three activists were engaged in protected political activity and the case was dismissed as it should have been."

Raynald Laforest of the Haitian Mobilization to Defend Immigrant Rights and the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees came to the courthouse to show support for the campaigners. Laforest said he felt stakes in this fight were high. "In the climate of attacks on workers and immigrants, I'm especially concerned about cases like this. It behooves us to get involved in a struggle like this and to educate around it," he stated.

One of the issues the socialists were campaigning around was support for the October 12 demonstration for immigrant rights.

Garza joins Northern Ireland protests

BY JACK WILLEY

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — During a four-day visit to Northern Ireland at the end of August, Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice president, joined in actions against sectarian marches through predominantly Catholic nationalist communities (see article on page 3) and discussed the U.S. elections with a range of Irish republican activists. Two members of the Communist League in the United Kingdom, who are active in the struggle to force British troops out of Ireland, joined Garza on the fact-finding tour.

In a meeting at the Belfast City Hall August 29, three of the 10 Sinn Fein members on the Belfast City Council described the conditions faced by Catholics under the British-imposed caste system that guarantees privileges for the Protestant population in the north. Alex Maskey noted that Catholics are three times more likely to be unemployed, suffer discrimination in housing and social funding, and are subject to loyalist attacks on their homes and communities on a regular basis. "Not a week goes by without a Catholic family being burned out of their home somewhere," said Maskey.

Fran McKee, another councillor, said the resistance to the unionist marches this summer has united nationalists as never before. One result is an unprecedented boycott of businesses owned by some Protestant businessmen who played a prominent part in

imposing the roadblocks and marches.

McKee noted that only in the last eight years have nationalists won the right to hold a demonstration of their own through downtown Belfast. Even the right to function on

Continued on Page 12

SWP presidential candidate tours Australia

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia — "I am proud to share the platform with such freedom fighters. In the decades of struggle ahead of us, working people around the world will need such fighters on their side." With these words, James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, opened his address to a campaign meeting in Sydney August 21. Twenty two people attended. Speakers included Moses Havini, international representative of the Bougainville Interim Government; Eddy, a young Indonesian political activist; and Rahab Charida, a young woman who helped organize protests against the recent Israeli bombing of Lebanon.

"There is a little Vietnam war that has

been kept secret from the world being waged by Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG)," Havini said, referring to the Pacific island of Bougainville. He was speaking for the independence movement on Bougainville fighting for separation from PNG. "As the region's most powerful country," he said, "Australia is providing the military supplies and financial assistance to sustain the PNG war on Bougainville."

Other speakers described the political upsurge against the military dictatorship of General Suharto in Indonesia and the impact in the Pacific of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and against Israeli aggression in Lebanon.

"We take our campaign to where the fights and resistance are," Harris said in his presentation, "and that means internationally, across the barriers erected by our capitalist rulers."

Harris said that the 20,000-strong, union-sponsored rally he attended on August 19, in Canberra, "demonstrating for union rights and against the cutbacks, was like other struggles around the world from Bougainville to Indonesia, from the U.S. to Australia. The common thread is that for any struggle to be victorious, working people have to reach out."

He pointed out that "U.S. President Clinton is leading exactly the same type of cutbacks as are occurring here in Australia. In fact, they use the same language, 'defending the family,' while throwing millions of children into poverty."

"We have nothing in common with the capitalist rulers," the U.S. presidential can-

didate said. "That is why we reach out across borders to fellow working people around the world and explain the commonality of our struggles. Some people say, 'Maybe there is an American solution or an Australian solution to our problems,' or an Indonesian or a Haitian one. No, there is only the same working-class solution."

Harris pointed to the Cuban revolution "as an example for workers all over the world of how political change is made and how workers and farmers in power can fight to extend socialist revolution on a world scale. This is more important than any single social gain, the fact that workers in Cuba have shown that we can be victorious and push back imperialism."

The U.S. socialist also spoke at a meeting of about a dozen students at the University of Technology, Sydney. During his four-day stop in Australia, Harris had a chance to meet and exchange experiences with workers at two factory gates — at F. Muller, before workers boarded the buses for Canberra (see story on page 11), and later at Streets Ice Cream. In Canberra, he spoke to workers, students and Aboriginal activists during the labor rally. Supporters of his campaign who traveled by bus and train with workmates to Canberra reported numerous discussions and interest in the Socialist Workers tour.

The *Canberra Times* published an interview with Harris titled "Expect More Cuts: U.S. Visitor." He was also interviewed on Channel 7's 11AM program and by three national Australian Broadcasting Commission radio programs.

Campaign for the socialist alternative!

- ☐ Sign me up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza. I want to campaign for the socialist alternative and against the parties of exploitation, racism, and war.
- ☐ Sign me up as a campaign supporter and keep me informed of protests, picket lines, and other political activities.
- ☐ Enclosed is a \$ _____ contribution
- ☐ I want to invite a candidate to speak at my union, school, or organization
- ☐ Enclosed is \$10 for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly, or \$6 for 4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Zip _____
 Union/School/Organization _____

Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009
 Compuserve: 104124,1405 Phone: (212) 328-1504

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Armed with books—all out!



Socialist sold 4 books at anti-war action in Times Square, New York, September 3.

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

Armed with books, pamphlets, newspapers, campaign statements, and leaflets for quickly called Militant Labor Forums, socialist workers and Young Socialists around the world fanned out this week to campaign against Washington's bombing of Iraq.

From Auckland to Brooklyn to Montreal, teams took part in demonstrations and picket lines, organized sales at plant gates and mine portals, and set up tables at universities and on street corners. Their actions were part of a stepped-up effort to bring working people and young rebels the facts they need to understand the connection between the war drive in the Middle East and the mounting assault on the social wage in the United States and elsewhere.

Initial reports indicate an increased interest in Pathfinder titles on the Middle East and the imperialist war drive, as well as in books explaining how working people can fight the related assaults on social security, medical care, and education.

Now is also the time to step up sales visits to non-Pathfinder bookstores, campus outlets and university departments, and libraries, suggesting titles on the Middle East that they can feature right now.

In Auckland, New Zealand, Communist League candidates Eugen Lepou and Annalucia Vermunt set the tone with a September 4 statement announcing, "Our campaign supporters will be stepping up sales of socialist literature, such as the issue of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* that contains 'Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq.'" For openers, a special campaign table and protest is planned to take place in front of the U.S. consulate in central Auckland.

Communist League members in Christchurch, New Zealand, with plans for a similar campaign, placed a rush order for ten copies of the pamphlet *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*. And socialists in Cleveland looked at their stock

and decided they could use five more copies of the latest *New Internationalist*, featuring the article "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War," as well as another five of the issue on the Gulf War.

In New York, socialist workers took part in a midtown antiwar rally of 200 September 3. Susan Kim, 18, heard about the protest on WBAI, a local radio station. She snapped up a copy of the magazine *New Internationalist* that included the article "Opening Guns of World War III." Sales at the rally included three copies of *New Internationalist*, the pamphlet *Genocide against the Indians*, and at least a dozen copies of the *Militant*. The socialists also organized a special plant-gate sale at Bushwick Terminal, Brooklyn's garment center.

The day before, under a big banner reading "U.S. Hands Off Iraq!" in English, French, and Spanish, an all-day team at Brooklyn's massive Caribbean Day festival sold a total of 27 books. Among the titles most sought after were *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, by the leader of the 1979 revolution in Grenada who was later murdered in a Stalinist-led counterrevolution.

In Greensboro, North Carolina, an emergency news conference called September 3 by Socialist Workers candidates drew several people and resulted in a sale of a *New Internationalist*. Participants in the news conference called a picket line at the federal building for the following day, and several plan to attend a Militant Labor Forum scheduled for the weekend.

Pathfinder supporters, including Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate David Salner, were among the 1,000 who attended the Labor Day picnic in Racine, West Virginia, sponsored by the United Mine Workers of America.

"The socialist campaign table — featuring a good selection of Pathfinder books, the *Militant*, and plenty of campaign literature — was a place for thoughtful political discussion with miners, their families, and

other workers from the region," Estelle DeBates reports. "Many wanted to discuss their concern about the recent assaults on welfare. Most people saw this attack as related to other attacks on workers benefits including Black Lung, which is denied to many people who suffer from the disease." Five issues of the *Militant* were sold, along with a Pathfinder catalog.

The following day Salner and gubernatorial candidate Dennis Richter led teams to West Virginia University and a mine portal in Carmichael, Pennsylvania. "We decided the best piece of campaign literature we had was *New Internationalist* no. 7 and we adopted a goal to sell two copies during the week," DeBates said.

Supporters in Newark met September 3 and adopted a goal of selling 10 *New Internationalists* within a week, reports socialist campaign supporter Bob Miller, in New Jersey. The effort to sell the Marxist magazine will be part of the work around organizing a campaign news conference, a forum, and increased sales on the job, at local plant gates, and universities, Miller said.

Special Militant Labor Forums to speak out against the war drive will be used to introduce Pathfinder titles to new readers.

These efforts build on the upturn in sales from Pathfinder bookstores in August compared to the previous three months (see accompanying chart). Socialists around the world can use the opportunity of responding to world events in a timely and political manner to meet or exceed their goals in September.

Countries/Cities	Monthly sales of books from Pathfinder Bookstores			August			Previous months		
	Goal	Sold	%Sold	July	June	May			
AUSTRALIA	36	43	119%	53%	94%	58%			
CANADA									
Vancouver	32	32	100%	9%	69%	94%			
Toronto	90	45	50%	79%	70%	128%			
Montreal	136	55	40%	96%	89%	56%			
Canada Total	194	132	68%	74%	69%	86%			
NEW ZEALAND									
Christchurch	32	29	91%	38%	100%	118%			
Auckland	65	42	65%	48%	83%	105%			
NZ Total	97	71	73%	44%	88%	109%			
SWEDEN									
Stockholm	40	35	88%	130%	188%	123%			
UNITED KINGDOM									
London	95	173	182%	121%	104%	173%			
Manchester	46	59	128%	0%	104%	65%			
UK Total	155	232	150%	74%	95%	65%			
UNITED STATES									
Los Angeles	120	155	129%	73%	80%	80%			
San Francisco	95	101	106%	52%	71%	74%			
Peoria	27	28	104%	93%	78%	96%			
Detroit	70	72	103%	69%	78%	64%			
Atlanta	48	47	98%	63%	100%	79%			
Miami	55	53	96%	56%	36%	68%			
Greensboro	41	35	85%	80%	66%	122%			
Seattle	80	68	85%	35%	34%	58%			
Chicago	77	61	79%	64%	100%	61%			
Morgantown	32	24	75%	25%	13%	19%			
Cleveland	50	37	74%	0%	88%	80%			
Boston	65	46	71%	40%	66%	172%			
Brooklyn	165	114	69%	56%	36%	68%			
Twin Cities	86	53	62%	106%	50%	79%			
Birmingham	65	39	60%	43%	43%	25%			
Pittsburgh	63	37	59%	27%	16%	54%			
Newark	171	100	58%	20%	16%	49%			
Washington, D.C.	64	36	56%	102%	135%	80%			
New York	175	95	54%	59%	31%	42%			
Houston	45	23	51%	35%	33%	62%			
Des Moines	45	22	49%	0%	40%	44%			
Salt Lake City	50	23	46%	72%	40%	80%			
Philadelphia	63	24	38%	48%	32%	57%			
U.S. Total	1752	1293	74%	53%	52%	66%			
Goal/Should be	1800	1800	100%	100%	100%	100%			
As of August 31									

Books sold to Co-workers

Unions	August			Previous months		
	Goal	Sold	% sold	July	June	May
Australia						
AMWU	2	5	250%			
Canada						
IAM	13	3	23%	38%	62%	38%
United Kingdom						
RMT	10	5	50%	40%	30%	40%
AEEU*	10	0	0%	90%	40%	60%
TGWU*	7	0	0%	29%	43%	43%
UK Total	27	5	19%	56%	26%	76%
United States						
OCAW	48	24	50%	33%	19%	38%
UNITE	26	12	46%	19%	17%	45%
UTU	94	43	46%	0%	14%	6%
IAM	71	31	44%	11%	0%	0%
UAW	65	27	42%	0%	25%	43%
UMWA	5	2	40%	40%	120%	60%
USWA	58	20	34%	19%	26%	0%
UFCW	6	0	0%	0%	0%	50%
U.S. Total	299	135	45%	10%	18%	23%
Goal/Should be	400	400	100%	100%	100%	100%
As of August 31						

IAM—International Association of Machinists; OCAW—Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW—United Auto Workers; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America; UNITE—Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA—United Steelworkers of America; UTU—United Transportation Union.

Pathfinder bookstore in Montreal is vandalized

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — Around midnight on August 20 one or more persons attacked the Pathfinder bookstore here breaking the main window in two places and damaging the glass on the front door. The damages exceed CAN\$600 (US\$440).

At the time of the attack the window display included the following titles: *The Right of Nations to Self-Determination* by V.I. Lenin; *Nègres blancs d'Amérique* (White negroes of America) by Pierre Vallières; *Les grands textes indépendantistes, écrits, discours et manifestes québécois 1774-1992* (The major independentista documents; Quebecois writings, speeches and manifestos 1774-1992) by Andrée Ferretti and Gaston Miron; *Marxism and Terrorism* by Leon Trotsky; writings by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels on Ireland in Spanish; and the second issue of *Nouvelle*

Internationale, the French language sister publication of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, with an article on "Land, Labor and the Canadian Revolution."

The vandals left no clear indication of the motives for the attack. Michel Prairie, a bookstore representative, said in a press release, "The character of the books in the window, the past attacks against the bookstore linked to its defense of the rights of the Quebecois, and the fact the bookstore was the only establishment in the neighborhood that was vandalized last night, lead us to believe this is an attack on freedom of expression." The Quebecois are an oppressed nationality in Canada who are discriminated against on the basis of their language, French.

This is the third attack on the bookstore this year. In January a warning in French was stuck on the bookstore saying, "Remove the word 'bookstore' (in English) from

your sign or we will do it, Law 101."

Law 101 is an affirmative action measure in Quebec that promotes use of the French language. The bookstore sign has the word bookstore in French, English and Spanish. The store carries books that defend law 101 and Quebec independence.

On July 1, a sticker was stuck on the bookstore window, which said, in French, "Yes, I love Quebec, but Canada is my country." At the time the bookstore window displayed several books on the right of nations to self-determination as well as a poster announcing a concert for Quebec independence.

Bookstore volunteers responded rapidly to the attack. "Yesterday's attack occurred in the context of a chauvinist campaign to defend the privileges of the anglophone community in Quebec by demanding more English on signs, which is already permitted by the law," said Prairie in a press release.

An article appeared in *La Presse*, a major French-language daily in Montreal, with the headline "Vandalism at a bookstore with a sign in three languages." Prairie was also interviewed by *Daybreak*, a CBC Radio program; McGill University Radio, CKUT; and *The Mirror*, a community newspaper.

The bookstore received messages of support from the Prisoners' Rights Bureau and the Abya-Yala bookstore. The Abya-Yala bookstore's statement read in part, "We deplore the senseless attack against your bookstore this week and the threat to freedom of speech it represents."

After reading the article in *La Presse*, two young people came to the Pathfinder bookstore to express solidarity in face of the attack and to inquire about joining the Young Socialists.

Mark Curtis celebrations link up fighters

BY MICHAEL PENNOCK

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — "If I think of a warrior in the working-class fight, I think of Mark Curtis," said Native American activist and artist Chris Spotted Eagle. He was the lead-off speaker at the Militant Labor Forum celebrating the release of Mark Curtis from prison. Over 40 people attended the August 17 event.

"I've never had a chance to meet Mark," he continued, "but when I do I plan to present him with an eagle feather. It is a high honor from our people to a warrior."

Spotted Eagle pointed out he was wearing a T-shirt supporting death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal. "Mark's struggle and the support he gets gives me the courage and inspiration to fight on for justice." He concluded with an appeal to keep up the effort to free Native American activist Leonard Peltier from his 20 years behind bars.

Maria Teresa Tula spoke of her experiences in the 1980s struggle in El Salvador and her fight in this country for immigrant and Hispanic rights. She is helping to build the October 12 national march for immigrant rights in Washington, D.C.

She noted that Curtis's troubles with the law began as he was helping defend undocumented workers at an Iowa packinghouse. She pointed out that political activists do not stop their struggles when they find themselves behind bars. Tula, who was in prison herself in El Salvador, remarked, "We never stopped fighting for human rights, just like Mark did when he was in prison."

Paul Pederson spoke as a person new to politics. He heard of Curtis's fight while a participant on the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange that visited Cuba in July. He came to the Pathfinder bookstore in St. Paul a week before the forum and bought the pamphlet *Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?* He wanted to be familiar with the details when he attended the forum. Then he was asked to speak.

"I'm a newcomer to politics," Pederson said, "and I want to share my solidarity and my joy with this celebration."

"Cuba totally changed my view of the world and my role in this country. For me, this pamphlet is full of good lessons as I enter the fight. And I welcome Mark Curtis back to the struggle outside the walls of

prison."

Also speaking at the event were Kipp Hedges, a union activist at Northwest Airlines, and Jennifer Benton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. House of Representatives. More than \$400 was raised to continue the work of the Political Rights Defense Fund, which has agreed to accept responsibility for any legal expenses that arise during Curtis's parole. The evening ended with a champagne toast.

BY VED DOOKHUN

SAN FRANCISCO — On August 18 some 40 people attended a celebration of Mark Curtis's release from prison here. Curtis is a union and political activist and member of the Socialist Workers Party. He was framed up by the police in Des Moines in 1988 on false charges of rape and burglary, in the middle of a fight to defend 17 coworkers from Mexico and El Salvador who had been arrested in an immigration raid at the Swift meatpacking plant in Des Moines. He was released on parole to Illinois in June.

Featured speakers were Puerto Rican author and poet Piri Thomas; Bruce Valde, a



Militant/Eric Simpson
Piri Thomas spoke at San Francisco event

commentator and radio show host on Radio Free Berkeley; Steve Gordon, representing the Young Socialists; and Norton Sandler, a member of the SWP National Committee.

In introducing Piri Thomas, who is the author of *Down These Mean Streets*, chairperson Kathryn Crowder noted that Thomas had been a partisan of Curtis's fight for freedom since the beginning and that he had spoken at a large international rally held in Des Moines on the eve of Curtis's trial.

Thomas explained that at that September 1988 rally, participants were preparing for Curtis's likely conviction at his frame-up trial that was scheduled to begin in a few days. "That day in 1988, Mark and I talked about what it is like in prison," said Thomas who spent seven years behind bars. That experience is described in Thomas's novel *Seven Long Times*. "Now," Thomas continued, "we're celebrating our brother's return to the struggle, and I am glad to be part of this today."

Thomas read a poem describing the oppression of Puerto Ricans in the United States and concluded by saying, "Viva Puerto Rico Libre (Long live a free Puerto Rico), Welcome back Mark!"

YS activist Gordon drew a comparison between the time Curtis spent in prison and what has faced other revolutionists. Gordon explained that many members of the Bolshevik Party spent time in prison prior to the 1917 Russian Revolution.

Messages to the meeting were received from Patsy Behrend, a relative of Curtis and local Cuba solidarity activist, and from Ron Lind, director of union organizing for the United Food and Commercial Workers in San Jose, California.

Ten-week Pathfinder Fund begins

BY TED LEONARD

NEWARK, New Jersey — The 10-week-long Pathfinder fund drive began September 1 with local targets reaching \$106,000 of the \$125,000 goal. The main challenge over the next week is to get in goals from all local areas that surpass the \$125,000 international target, accelerate collection from those who've already made pledges, and begin reaching out to fighting workers and youth for new contributions. The fund is aimed at raising the resources to ensure that the hundreds of Pathfinder books and pamphlets can be reprinted in a timely way so that they remain available to working-class fighters.

Supporters in New York City are preparing for the annual "New York is Book Country" book fair. They got warmed up last

weekend by selling over two dozen books at a huge Caribbean parade and festival in Brooklyn.

"At previous 'Book Country,' fairs thousands of people from Manhattan and around the world learned about Pathfinder books from volunteers at our booth," explained Tamar Rosenfeld, Pathfinder Bookstore Director in New York. "This year thousands more will learn about these indispensable weapons."

"New York is Book Country" is a series of events that climaxes with a bookfair that sprawls down 5th Avenue on Sunday, September 29. The fair attracts up to 250,000 people. Pathfinder supporters are promoting several events to draw interest in the revolutionary books including a screening and discussion on Friday of "The Baku Congress 1920," historic film footage, and on Saturday a discussion on revolutionary Cuba, based on Ernesto Che Guevara's, *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* — both at the Pathfinder Bookstore in Manhattan.

An "author talk" with Olga Rodríguez, editor of *The Politics of Chicano Liberation*, will be featured on Saturday at the Pathfinder Bookstore in Brooklyn. At the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore in Manhattan a discussion on the book *Cosmetics, Fashion and the Exploitation of Women* is also scheduled for Saturday.

"An important part of this weekend will be explaining the whole arsenal of Pathfinder titles, why and how they are kept in print and the role of the current Pathfinder Fund to help finance that process," explained Rosenfeld. One of the displays at the booth on Sunday will highlight the \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund. As well, the programs at the Manhattan Bookstore will include a presentation on the reprint fund and a collection.

Pathfinder supporters in Christchurch, New Zealand, got their fundraising off to a strong start August 30 at a meeting that also celebrated the Pathfinder Mural. More than \$1,300 was pledged toward the fund. Organizing such meetings around the world rapidly is indispensable to boosting the fund drive.

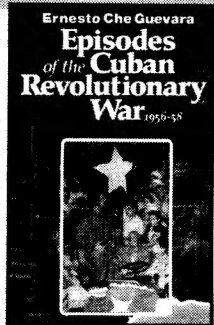
Malcolm McAllister was the keynote speaker in Christchurch. McAllister helped organize the Pathfinder Mural project, which drew dozens of artists from around the world into painting the six-story mural on the side of the Pathfinder Building in New York in the late 1980s. McAllister painted portraits of Eloi Machoro, a leader of the Kanak people of the South Pacific, of Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin, and other leaders of the Communist In-

ternational. "The mural stood for seven years, a billboard of revolutionary politics," he explained. But the mural is now faded and water is seeping through the wall when it rains so that it is affecting the production of revolutionary literature in the long term — the very reason for Pathfinder's existence. In order to repair the wall the mural will have to be removed. McAllister explained that the slogan of Pathfinder supporters must be, "Sell the books, produce the books, read the books."

Supporters of the fund in Newark, New Jersey, are making plans for their participation in the New Brunswick, New Jersey, Book Fair September 21 where they will also seek new contributions to the fund.

With goals in from 14 cities, the Pathfinder 1996 Fund is building toward the \$125,000 goal. Those wishing to make a contribution toward the fund should make checks payable to Pathfinder and send them to: Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 or contact the nearest Pathfinder distributor listed in the directory on page 12.

further reading from Pathfinder



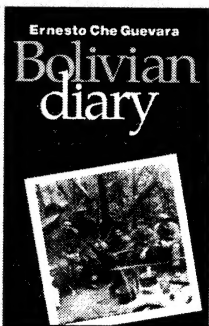
Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58 Ernesto Che Guevara

Ernesto Che Guevara, Argentine by birth, became a central leader of the Cuban revolution and one of the outstanding communists of the 20th century. This book is a firsthand account of the military campaigns and political events that culminated in the January 1959 popular insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba. With clarity and humor, Guevara describes his own political education. He explains how the struggle transformed the men and women of the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement led by Fidel Castro. And how these combatants forged a political leadership capable of guiding millions of workers and peasants to open the socialist revolution in the Americas. Guevara's *Episodes* appears here complete for the first time in English. Introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. **\$23.95**

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The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara

Guevara's account of the 1966-67 guerrilla struggle in Bolivia. A day-by-day chronicle of the campaign to forge a continent-wide revolutionary movement of workers and peasants capable of seizing state power. Includes excerpts from the diaries and accounts of other combatants, including—for the first time in English—*My Campaign with Che* by Bolivian leader Inti Peredo. Introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. **\$21.95**



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.

\$125,000 Pathfinder Fund September 1 — November 15

U.S. Cities	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Atlanta	\$2,700	\$725	\$0
Birmingham	\$4,500	\$3,150	\$0
Boston	\$6,000	\$3,100	\$200
Brooklyn	\$6,500	\$5,360	\$80
Chicago	\$7,500	\$3,325	\$0
Cleveland	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$10
Des Moines		\$1,950	\$20
Detroit	\$6,000	\$4,275	\$25
Greensboro		\$1,825	\$25
Houston	\$3,000	\$1,250	\$0
Los Angeles		\$5,383	\$1,013
Manhattan	\$8,000	\$5,420	\$315
Miami	\$2,800	\$2,020	\$0
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$1,135	\$0
Newark	\$8,500	\$6,475	\$250
Peoria	\$2,750	\$1,270	\$20
Philadelphia		\$1,900	\$100
Pittsburgh	\$6,000	\$3,330	\$0
Salt Lake City	\$3,600	\$1,550	\$200
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$2,725	\$152
Seattle	\$8,000	\$1,900	\$0
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$4,050	\$50
Washington, D.C.	\$3,500	\$2,375	\$0
U.S. TOTAL	\$100,950	\$67,593	\$2,460
Australia	\$750	\$100	\$0
Canada		\$695	\$30
France		\$511	\$511
Greece			
Iceland			
New Zealand	\$4,220	\$750	\$0
Sweden	\$400	\$175	\$0
United Kingdom		\$448	\$143
INTERNATIONAL TOTAL	\$106,320	\$70,272	\$3,144
SHOULD BE	\$125,000		

— YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD —

YS members make progress in building chapters

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN 55114. Tel: (612) 644-0051.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON

NEWARK, New Jersey — The Young Socialists chapter here has now conquered weekly meetings to lay out plans for doing politics in the coming week. Every meeting is kicked off with an educational on today's politics taken from articles in the *Militant*. The YS chapter here took two of its weekly chapter meetings to come up with a game plan on how to implement the nationwide campaign to recruit 80 new members to the revolutionary youth organization by the end of November.

Coming on the heels of YS participation in the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange and demonstrations at the Republican convention in San Diego, the YS laid out plans to set up Pathfinder book tables at local high schools and colleges and do weekly class series.

The YS here is beginning to see results. YS members campaigned for the Socialist Workers Party candidates at a Puerto Rican festival where several books and copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold.

A week later, after visiting the Pathfinder



bookstore in Newark, New Jersey, two young Black men who are members of the Teamsters union and work at United Parcel Service became interested in the Young So-

cialists. Each bought *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* by Ernesto Che Guevara. After that the YS and their supporters organized a dinner and discussion,



Shari Gilbert

a tour of the Pathfinder building in New York that houses the editorial offices and printing plant of the publisher, went to a Cuba report-back meeting and a video showing — all in one five-day period. Coming out of the weekend of activities, Charles Williams decided to join the YS.

"We responded to the young people who were around us. Now, we are organizing to hit college campuses and high schools as soon as they open," said Megan Arney, YS coordinator in Newark.

At a Militant Labor Forum on August 30, where YS member Stefanie Trice gave a presentation on "Capitalism's decline looms over '96 elections," Fuquan Battle asked what young people can do to involve others now in revolutionary politics. Battle has now decided to go to Vermont to help put the Socialist Workers ticket on the ballot there.

The YS is also organizing to visit the strikers at Farmland Dairy picket just outside Newark and is studying the history of the labor movement and social revolutions — from the speeches and writings of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels to James P. Cannon, Che Guevara and Thomas Sankara.

Immigrant workers protest against INS raids at packing plants in Iowa

BY SHIRLEY PEÑA

DES MOINES, Iowa — Since May hundreds of immigrant workers have been arrested by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in raids conducted at four meatpacking plants in central Iowa. These raids come on the heels of the April announcement of a joint program between the INS and packinghouse bosses that allows employers to tap into INS computer data to verify whether a prospective employee is "authorized to work" in the United States. Meat processing giants IBP and Monfort were among the first to enroll.

The federal government moved to deepen its campaign of harassment and intimidation against immigrant workers by sending a letter dated August 15 from U.S. attorney Stephan Rapp to all workers with Latino surnames at the IBP plant in Waterloo, Iowa. "You may have committed violations of the immigration laws and laws relating to employment," the letter read. "If you have something to offer to show our information is incorrect, we would be happy to consider it.... Please contact an immigration agent.... We are willing to consider an agreement where you would plead guilty."

Jerry Heinauer, district director of the INS office in Omaha, told the *Des Moines Register*, "We're serious about worksite enforcement." This "seriousness" is behind the government's decision to open an INS office in eastern Iowa, as well as a temporary office in Des Moines.

Protests for immigrant rights

Defenders of immigrant rights responded as the government stepped up its campaign against immigrant workers. After the second raid at the IBP Waterloo plant on August 12, more than 100 people gathered outside the jail where the workers were being held to protest a July raid.

Some 30 defenders of immigrant rights participated in an August 21 emergency press conference in Des Moines after the INS letter was sent to Latino workers in Waterloo.

Sandra Soto, director of the Immigrant Rights Project of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), told the media, "We question why due process seems nonexistent in this letter. It sends a message that if you belong to a certain class of people or ethnic group, your constitutional rights will not be respected."

Two additional demonstrations were also organized in Waterloo that same day.

The INS conducted another raid on August 24 — this time at the Swift pork pack-

ing plant in Marshalltown, Iowa. Activists planning Iowa participation in the October 12 march for immigrant rights in Washington, D.C., found out about the raid and rushed down to the plant.

Despite the cop attempts to block access to a public telephone, the October 12 activists found a cellular phone and alerted Des Moines media to the unfolding INS raid. As a result, the raid was the lead story on all three local news stations that evening — thwarting the government's attempts to downplay the protests against it.

While attempting to pose as victims of hiring undocumented workers, company representative K.T. Miller said at a press conference at the plant that management had contacted the INS last year.

Nearly 900 Swift workers were detained by the INS as they attempted to leave work that day, while almost 300 gathered outside to await news of their friends' and family members' fates. Some joined the October 12 activists who were chanting "No human being is illegal!"

Response of Marshalltown Workers

In response to the INS raid, the Marshalltown chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) called an emergency meeting to try to answer the questions facing families that had relatives caught up in the INS raid. Activists in the October 12 Coalition who are planning a march in Des Moines were invited to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion.

More than 50, predominantly Spanish-speaking workers from the Marshalltown Swift plant attended the meeting. Many said that those arrested faced the possibility of the state taking away their U.S.-born children unless "legal guardians" are found in the next three days. Some of these children also face the possibility of deportation along with their immigrant parents.

One young woman, Shelly, said she was caring for infant children of several of the families that were arrested, along with her own four children.

Some workers spoke of the experiences of some of the Swift workers who hid on company property for several hours as they waited for the INS to leave.

Aracely, a Guatemalan woman, described the case of her husband, who is also from Guatemala. He had been in the United States for seven years and had finally received the government's agreement that he could apply for asylum. But after his arrest the INS refused to release him when he presented

his paperwork to immigration agents. When Aracely explained she had no money to get legal help, someone grabbed a hat and over \$80 was collected from the audience.

Two young women who are white also addressed the meeting to express their solidarity with those arrested and to explain that not only Latinos are affected by the racist INS campaign. One woman was married to a Latino worker who was facing deportation. The other had just been engaged to another Latino worker.

Many in the audience strongly disagreed with comments that put the blame for the raid on the workers "because they didn't become part of the system." But many people responded positively to speakers who said immigrants had to stand up and fight the government and company attempts to scapegoat them.

Following the discussion, participants at the meeting were invited to join October 12 activists and other supporters of immigrant rights at the armory in Newton, Iowa, where those arrested in the Marshalltown raid were being held.

More than 100 turned out at the Newton armory to protest the detention and pending deportation of the 150 workers arrested. Among the protesters were dozens of Latino workers caught up in the August 24 INS raid at Swift, as well as a sizable contingent of immigrant workers from the IBP plant in Perry, Iowa. The large presence of Latino workers at Newton was a new element in the immigrant rights actions here and was prominently featured in the news coverage.

One woman, Bonnie, said that even though she's married to a Latino she "would have come here regardless of my husband. People come here to be free."

"They don't want to see a lot of numbers," hog farmer Larry Ginter commented. "If everyone goes down and raises Cain, it makes the INS job a lot harder."

As some in the crowd began to sign a song entitled "We Are a Gentle, Angry People," Miguel, at worker at IBP in Perry, leaned over and told *Militant* reporters, "I'm angry, I'm not gentle."

The federal government responded to the protest actions and criticism surrounding the raids by organizing a press conference where U.S. attorney Stephan Rapp stated, "I thought the demonstrations and criticisms were unfair, frankly. We're not concerned with people's ethnicity." To underscore his point, Rapp introduced a Latino Department of Justice official whose role is to "help open channels between law enforcement and the Hispanic community."

BY TAMI PETERSON

CHICAGO — On August 26, some 20 young people attended a discussion here called "Cuba Today" sponsored by the Young Socialists. The discussion was held after a day of protests outside the Democratic National Convention (DNC) that included a demonstration against the attacks on same sex marriage.

Participants in the recent U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange took part in the discussion circle by telling about their experiences. The meeting lasted for two hours and included youth from Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York, and California. Topics ranged from the question of prostitution and women's rights in Cuba to freedom of the press and the example of the revolution for young people today.

Sarah Katz, who came down from Minneapolis to participate in the protests around the DNC, passed around pictures from the Youth Exchange and recounted the experience of visiting the Cuban army barracks at Guantánamo where the U.S. government continues to occupy a navy base on Cuban soil. She said that those volunteering on the Cuban side were in the front lines of the battle if the U.S. government should start a shooting war.

All of those who went on the Youth Exchange told of how Cuban president Fidel Castro addressed them in a surprise visit and how they were able to ask questions of Roberto Robaina, Ricardo Alarcón, and other Cuban leaders. They spoke of how one of the repeated topics throughout the trip was getting young people to the 14th World Festival of Students and Youth that is to be held in Cuba in the summer of 1997. At this meeting, leaflets for the festival were distributed and many of those in attendance expressed interest in going to Cuba.

Tom Alter from the Young Socialists in Chicago recounted the experience of Youth Exchange members upon returning to the U.S. through Chicago O'Hare airport, where they were harassed and searched for having traveled to find out the truth in Cuba.

Those in attendance were invited to an event co-sponsored by the Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party where Frank Forrester, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, spoke. Two members of the Young Socialists are his running mates. Aislinn Pulley is running for Congress in the 9th district and Tami Peterson is running in the 5th district.

Throughout the rest of the week, the Young Socialists sponsored a discussion on Malcolm X and a video showing of *Portrait of Teresa*, which is a Cuban film on the fight against sexism in that country.

These events were built throughout the convention protests and many of those involved in the "Cuba Today" discussion returned for other activities throughout the week.

Clinton bombs Iraq

Continued from front page
troops from the Kurdish region. Pentagon officials stated, that the expanded no-fly zone would be permanently enforced, setting the stage for further clashes with Iraqi forces.

With war emerging as a decisive question in the presidential campaign — as with previous U.S. elections — Republican contender Robert Dole and other big-business politicians quickly fell in line behind the Democratic commander-in-chief.

While numerous governments in the world criticized the U.S. assault, the sharpest condemnation came from the revolutionary government of Cuba, which termed it a "criminal aggression." Calling the missile strikes an "excessive, unjustified, and arbitrary use of force," Cuban foreign ministry spokesperson Marianela Ferriol stated, "This fresh attack violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq."

Washington's "Operation Desert Strike" began in the morning of September 3 when two navy ships and two B-52 bombers fired 27 cruise missiles against air defense facilities in southern Iraq. The warships are part of a U.S. force stationed in the Persian Gulf and the B-52s flew out from Guam, a U.S. colony in the Pacific. Hours later, three navy ships and a submarine in the Gulf launched another 17 missiles.

Clinton also declared a 60-mile extension of the wide swath of territory in southern Iraq where Washington, London, and Paris decreed a ban on flights by Iraqi aircraft following the 1990-91 Gulf War. At that time, claiming to protect the Iraqi Kurds in the north and the largely Shiite population in the south, they imposed "no-fly zones" above the 36th Parallel and below the 32nd Parallel, in addition to a "no drive" zone for Iraqi troops in the south.

As of September 4, Washington widened the southern exclusion zone to the 33rd Parallel — from the Kuwaiti border to the outskirts of Baghdad — barring the Iraqis from using aircraft in half their national territory. U.S. and British pilots are now flying warplanes over this new area, putting two Iraqi airfields and a major training facility under their surveillance.

A U.S. warplane in this area destroyed an Iraqi radar station on the first day of the expanded patrols. U.S. defense secretary William Perry said the radar was bombed because it had "illuminated one of our planes." He later acknowledged, however, that the station was north of the no-fly zone.

A huge imperialist military force remains on alert in the region. The U.S. force includes 300 warplanes within striking distance. Washington has 23,000 troops, including 15,000 sailors and marines, aboard its Persian Gulf fleet. It has another 6,000 troops in the region, mostly based in Saudi Arabia, and thousands more in the area for military "exercises."

The U.S. cruise missiles targeted sites in the Iraqi towns of Tallil, Nasiriya, Kut, and Iskandariya. Despite claims by Clinton that only military facilities were hit, the Iraqi government reported that some residential areas had also been bombed, with six people killed and 26 injured so far.

'Iraq is sovereign country'

In a September 3 interview on CNN, Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz condemned the military attacks and patrols over

Iraqi territory. "Now, unilaterally, the United States and Britain have decided to impose another extension of a no-fly zone on a sovereign country," he said. "American and British interference in this matter is illegitimate. This is Iraq."

The Iraqi ambassador to Greece, Issam Saud Khalil, condemned the U.S. missile attacks. He called the U.S. government "the new criminals of the modern age" and "policemen of world disorder."

Washington justified its initial war moves saying it was acting in defense of Kurds after the Iraqi government sent troops into the Kurdish region in northern Iraq. The Kurds, an oppressed people living in parts of Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and Syria, have long fought for national self-determination and against repression by the capitalist regimes in all these countries. In Iraq, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by Massoud Barzani, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani, have fought for Kurdish autonomy.

Washington — which has always opposed the Kurdish people's fight for an independent state — set up a "Kurdish enclave" in northern Iraq after the Gulf War, seeking to bring the KDP and PUK under its thumb in the hope of undermining the Iraqi regime. In the past two years, however, a struggle for political control has erupted between these two bourgeois parties. In a setback for Washington, the PUK, which had previously aligned itself more closely with Washington, turned to the Iranian government, while the KDP decided to seek support from Baghdad.

The Iraqi government asserts it sent troops at the request of the KDP in its battle with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. As the rival parties fought each other, Iraqi troops seized Erbil August 31, routing the PUK fighters. After Washington's military threats, Baghdad's forces began to pull out of Erbil.

At a September 3 press conference, Clinton stated that Washington was responding to Iraqi repression against the Kurds. He added, however, that Washington's goal was to "increase America's ability to contain Iraq over the long run.... When our interest in the security of our friends and allies is threatened, we will act with force if necessary."

In a news conference the same day, Perry said, "The issue is not simply the Iraqi at-

tack on Erbil," adding that the U.S. government did not want to get mired in the factional fighting among the Kurdish groups. Perry emphasized that Washington's priority was "protection of the flow of oil" in the Mideast. The government of Saddam Hussein, he stated, was "a threat to security and stability" in the region.

An unnamed Pentagon official told the *New York Times*, "This has nothing to do with the Kurds and everything to do with Saddam."

Bipartisan support

The Clinton administration's rapid military escalation in the Persian Gulf received bipartisan support. On September 3 Republican presidential candidate Dole declared, "I stand foursquare behind our men and women in uniform." He added, "I trust this is the beginning of decisive action to limit the power and arrogance of Saddam Hussein."

Speaking to U.S. war veterans, Dole declared, "In matters like this, all of us think not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans."

On the campaign trail, Dole had initially attacked Clinton for "weak leadership." Dole's senior advisor, Sen. John McCain, had mocked "this Administration's feckless photo-op foreign policy." Within 18 hours, however, the Dole camp dropped this criticism like a hot potato, as they concluded such statements "had left the Republican candidate subject to accusations that he was undermining national security interests at a time of crisis," the *New York Times* reported.

Dole campaign spokesman Nelson Warfield said Dole had telephoned Clinton September 3 to assure him that he would not make any remarks on Iraq "designed to offend the president." Dole would "stand by the president and our troops," Warfield added.

Other Democrats and Republicans fell in step with support for the war effort. Republican Senate majority leader Trent Lott has worked with his Democratic counterpart, Sen. Tom Daschle, to draft a resolution supporting the U.S. military moves against Iraq.

Ross Perot, who is running as the Reform Party's presidential candidate, was critical of Clinton's actions. "War is not a place for politicians to create a positive image and get a bump in the polls." He pointed to the problems the current administration has faced in its military interventions in Somalia and Bosnia.

Clinton's war speech

Clinton set the political framework for the assault on Iraq in his August 29 speech at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, where he formally accepted the Democratic nomination for president.

"We cannot become the world's policeman," Clinton declared, "but where our values and our interests are at stake and where we can make a difference, we must act and we must lead." He referred to his administration's sending of U.S. troops to Haiti and Bosnia to illustrate the point.

Clinton assailed the governments of Iran and Libya, accusing them of "terrorism." He bragged about the law he had signed imposing sanctions on foreign companies that invest in those countries, which he vowed

"will pay a price from the United States."

The president singled out the Cuban government for attack, saying that "Cuba must finally join the community of democracies." Repeating the false claim that Cuba is undemocratic, the Clinton administration has in the past four years taken a number of aggressive measures against the workers and farmers government in that Caribbean nation.

The aggressiveness of the Clinton White House in launching these war moves abroad has been paralleled by its spearheading of the bipartisan assault on the basic social gains of working people at home. At the Democratic Party convention, prominent liberal figures like Mario Cuomo, Edward Kennedy, and Jesse Jackson spoke as critics of Clinton's welfare "reform" law, while urging a vote for the Democratic incumbent as a supposed lesser evil to the Republicans. In so doing, these liberal forces played an important role in greasing the rails for further attacks on workers' social gains — as well as the administration's current military moves.

Near the end of his acceptance speech Clinton made a demonstrative point about "some African-American members of our Special Forces at Fort Bragg," North Carolina, whose doors, he stated, had recently been defaced with swastikas.

Saying that "they do not deserve to have swastikas on their doors," Clinton then asserted, "If I walk off this stage tonight and call them on the telephone and tell them to go halfway around the world and risk their lives for you and be there by tomorrow at noon, they will do it."

White House officials later told the press that even before that speech, the administration had been taking steps that laid the groundwork for the military attack on Iraq. On August 28 Clinton had authorized a diplomatic note warning Baghdad against a military move in northern Iraq. The day after Clinton's speech, administration officials made the first public threat that U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf were "prepared to deploy."

On August 31 the White House approved a plan for a military strike in southern Iraq and the extension of the no-fly zone. The justification for these moves was a 1991 United Nations Security Council resolution demanding that the Iraqi government end repression against the Kurds.

The following day, the administration reported the initial mobilization of the U.S. armada in the Persian Gulf. UN secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported he had suspended a recent agreement to allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months to pay for food and medicine. For the past six years, Iraq has been blocked from selling oil by a U.S.-orchestrated economic embargo.

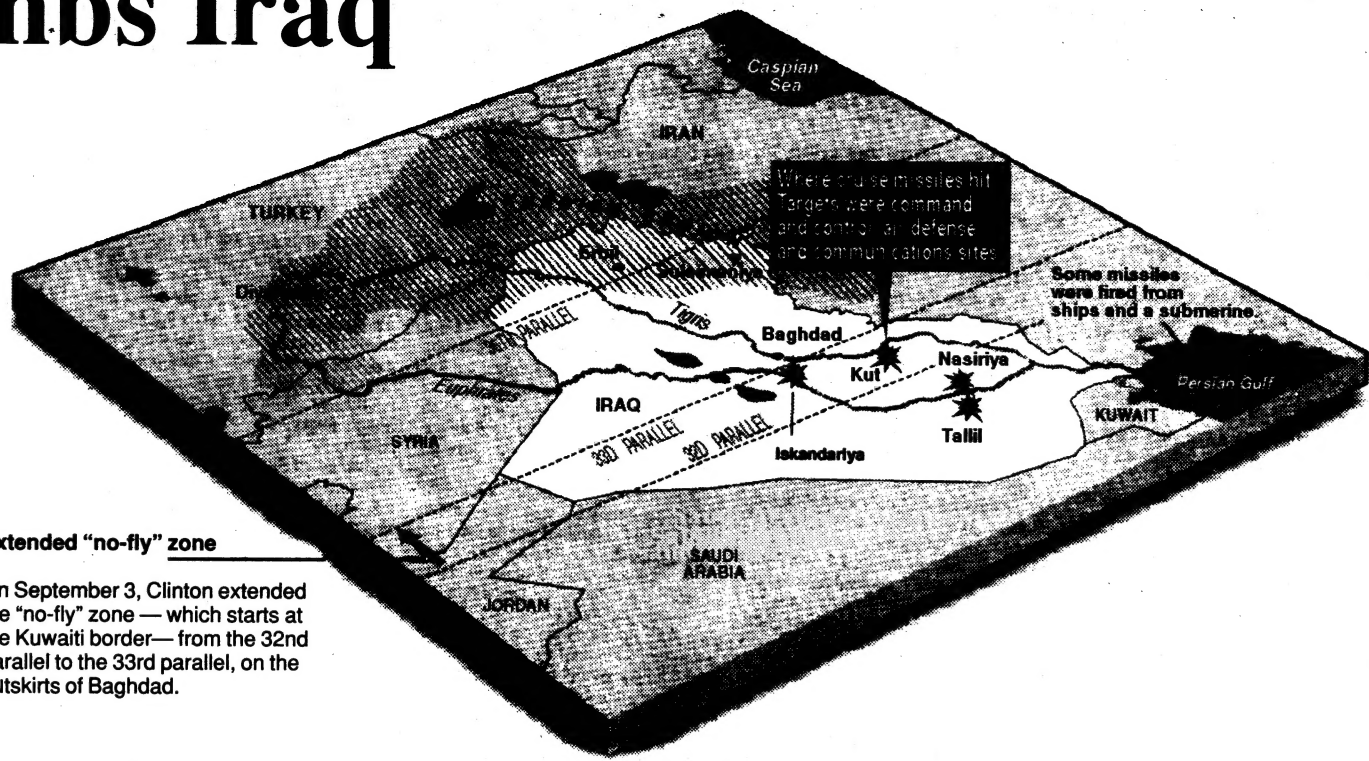
By Labor Day, September 2, the White House announced its plan to carry out a military assault, which was launched in the early hours of the following morning.

Of the four other governments making up the United Nations Security Council, only London expressed its complete support for the U.S. missile strikes against Iraq. The imperialist governments of Germany, Japan, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand all

Continued on Page 14

Extended "no-fly" zone

On September 3, Clinton extended the "no-fly" zone — which starts at the Kuwaiti border — from the 32nd parallel to the 33rd parallel, on the outskirts of Baghdad.



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Clinton's record as a war president

Below is a chronology of the Clinton administration's attacks on Iraq:

January 1993

"There is no difference between my policy and the policy of the present administration [of George Bush]," Clinton says at a January 14 news conference, less than a week before his inauguration. Three days later, U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea fire 40 Tomahawk cruise missiles at targets near Baghdad. The president-to-be also backed repeated air strikes by U.S., British, and French war planes over Iraq January 13-23 that year.

June 1993

U.S. bombing of Baghdad June 26 leaves at least 8 civilians dead and 20 wounded. Three of the 23 cruise missiles fired at the city hit residential neighborhoods, leaving craters 30 feet deep. On June 29, a U.S. warplane fires an air-to-surface missile against an Iraqi anti-aircraft battery in the southern province of Basra. Bombings and missile attacks continue into July. Clinton claims assault is in retaliation of alleged plot by Baghdad to kill former president Bush while on an earlier visit to Kuwait.

August 1993

U.S. war planes bombard targets in northern Iraq August 9, dropping cluster bombs on what Washington claims was an Iraqi air defense battery. Two F-15E fighter bombers also drop four 500-pound laser-guided bombs at the same site.

December 1993

Clinton administration announces it will push for tough new conditions for lifting the UN ban on Iraqi oil exports, including recognizing Kuwait as an independent country and ending the persecution of dissidents before the embargo on oil exports is lifted.

April 1994

Two U.S. F-15 fighter jets patrolling the airspace above northern Iraq shoot down two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters April 14, apparently mistaking them for Iraqi aircraft, killing all 26 people on board. The downing occurred in broad daylight, with no warning given to the targeted helicopters.

September 1994

At Washington's urging the United Nations Security Council votes September 14 to maintain its economic embargo against Iraq, first imposed in August 1990. Earlier in the year, Iraqi foreign minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf told the UN



Planes are loaded with bombs on U.S. warship in preparation for 1993 assault on Iraq

Commission on Human Rights that the death rate among young children in the country was 126 times higher than before the Gulf War. Prices of basic foodstuffs had risen as much as 400 percent. The Security Council has renewed the sanctions regularly since, with the U.S. government leading the charge, despite continued reports of the devastating consequences. A UN study estimates as of January 1996, as many as 576,000 children in Iraq have died as a result of the economic embargo.

October 1994

With virtually unanimous bipartisan support, Clinton pours tens of thousands of troops into the Gulf region, and places another 156,000 on alert. Hundreds of bombers and other war material are part of the massive armada sent to the waters off Iraq. The U.S. military buildup, supposedly in response to the deployment of 70,000 Iraqi troops near the border with Kuwait, continues despite the fact that Baghdad began pulling its troops back within days. U.S. troops

conduct training exercises in the Kuwaiti desert.

Washington and London both issue "diplomatic notes" October 20 threatening aerial bombardment if Baghdad sends more troops south of the 32nd parallel.

November-December 1994

The U.S. Navy boards five ships accused of disregarding UN sanctions against Iraq. The Iraqi government reports that the U.S. sailors shot at the crewmen of two of the ships.

July 1995

Washington sends 1,000 additional troops to Kuwait for training exercises, several months ahead of schedule, along with 13 ships of war material to equip the 20,000 U.S. soldiers stationed in the Persian Gulf region. U.S. officials openly speculate on the possibilities of ousting Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.

Other war moves by Clinton include:

- The occupation of Somalia in 1993-94.
- Sending troops to Rwanda in July 1994.
- The invasion of Haiti in September 1994.
- Numerous bombing raids over Bosnia; 20,000 U.S. soldiers sent in December 1995 as part of NATO occupation force.
- Sending warships to maneuver off the coast of China as a threat against Beijing in March 1996.
- Repeated threats, provocations, and economic warfare against Cuba and North Korea, as well as threats and trade sanctions against the governments of Libya and Iran.

Young Socialists urge youth to join protests

The statement below was released by the Young Socialists national steering committee September 3, 1996.

The Young Socialists urge young people around the world to join us in picket lines and demonstrations to protest the brutal bombing attacks ordered by President William Clinton against the Iraqi people. These bombings, along with the tightening of the economic embargo, should be actively opposed by all young people fighting against injustice.

The Clinton administration has justified these latest attacks as defending the Kurdish people. But the record shows that the U.S. capitalist rulers have never been concerned

about the oppression of the Kurds. Even Defense Secretary William Perry admitted that "the Kurdish people are not the issue." Their real goal in Iraq is to establish a servile regime that will loyally help Washington advance the interests of U.S. big business to expand their imperialist domination of oil reserves in the Middle East.

Washington is the real terrorist in the world having caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in Iraq, including the bloody slaughter in 1990-91 of thousands of Iraqis and the continuing effort to deprive the Iraqi people of food and medicines. The attacks on Iraq are part of their overall drive to war. As international tensions mount we can anticipate continuing threats against

Cuba, Libya and North Korea.

The Young Socialists demand the immediate withdrawal of the 23,000 U.S. troops stationed in the Middle East to protect the interests of the billionaire families. Young people have a special stake in this because we are the ones who are sent around the world to fight against our brothers and sisters. Young people and workers have nothing to gain in this assault. Moreover, the savage military attack goes hand in hand with the bipartisan assault on public assistance, social security, and democratic rights that the Clinton administration is leading.

We should aim to get copies of the issues of *New Internationalist* magazine on "Imperialism's March towards Fascism and War" and "Opening Guns of World War III" into the hands of every young person interested in fighting against these imperialist attacks. YS members should organize classes on these articles and use every opportunity we have to explain what's behind Washington's moves.

The Young Socialists call on young people around the world to join us in demanding:

- Stop the bombing of Iraq now!
- U.S. troops out of the Middle East!
- End the economic embargo!

N.Y. youth: 'Go see Cuba for yourself'

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

NEW YORK — Youth from all over the country, who recently returned from the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange trip to the Caribbean island, are getting out the truth about Cuba through leafleting at demonstrations and cultural gatherings, as well as giving reportbacks to anyone interested. At the center of their efforts is building the broadest possible U.S. delegation to the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students, scheduled to take place in Cuba July 28-August 5, 1997.

In New York, a few of the Youth Exchange participants went to the September 2 annual Caribbean Day Festival in Brooklyn. The street festival draws hundreds of thousands of people. Each person from the Exchange wore a sandwich board reading, "Go see Cuba for yourself; 1997 World Festival of Youth and Students." They handed out hundreds of leaflets to passers-by with information about the world event. A dozen young people signed up for more information on how to travel to Cuba next year.

Not everyone had the same response, however. A woman approached the group saying, "We can't go to Cuba. If we do [Cuban president Fidel] Castro will kill us. They are terrorists over there."

One of the Exchange representatives responded by asking her if she was sure she could trust everything the big-business media tells her. "When Malcolm X was leading a struggle for Black rights the media had nothing but bad things to say about him, and the same was true for Nelson Mandela before he became president," he said. The

woman was dead set in her opinions, but her friend entered the discussion saying, "He's right. You can't always assume that what the media says is true."

Exchange participants also met a group of Haitian activists called the Haitian Mobilization to Defend Immigrant rights at the event passing around leaflets condemning U.S. anti-immigrant policy. One of them took a leaflet for the world youth festival and asked who was putting this trip together. One of the activists answered, "Young people from all over the country, including dozens of young people that just got back from a fact-finding trip to Cuba."

About halfway through the day, a young Argentine activist joined the group. She brought with her leaflets announcing an event to commemorate Ernesto Che Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban revolution who was later killed in Bolivia by the CIA-aided Bolivian army. The activists handed out both leaflets together.

In addition to meeting scores of youth, many older people approached the Youth Exchange participants, asking if they could go on the 1997 trip to Cuba. So many, in fact, that the Youth Exchange activists decided on the spot to put out a new flyer for the youth festival with information on an international conference of trade unionists in Cuba set to coincide with the youth event.

Called the International Workers Conference on Neoliberalism and Globalization, this gathering will bring together unionists and other workers from around the world to exchange ideas and experiences, and get a chance to see the reality of life for Cuban

workers.

Andrew Blake, a member of the New York delegation of the Youth Exchange, said after the full day of leafleting, "If we go to events like this all the time and publicize the world youth festival, we will get a qualitatively bigger delegation than the one that went this summer on the Youth Exchange."

Two editors will speak in Quebec on culture in Cuba

BY CAROLE CARON

MONTREAL — From September 22 to October 6, people in Quebec will get a chance to discuss the role of culture in Cuba today with two distinguished Cuban guests. The *Carrefour culturel d'amitié Québec-Cuba*, a solidarity group with Cuba in Montreal, is organizing a conference on the subject September 27-28. The Carrefour has invited Norberto Codina, editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, the magazine of the National Union of Writers and Artists in the Caribbean island; and Juan Padrón, a member of the editorial board of *Casa de las Américas*, a publishing house based in Havana, to be the featured speakers at the event. Claude Morin, a professor at the University of Montreal, will also address the meeting.

The conference is getting a broad hearing. The Quebec government agreed to pay for the plane tickets for Codina and Padrón. The Assistant-Teachers Union of the Que-

bec University in Montreal has offered rooms for the event. A solidarity group on a college campus has contributed CAN\$200 (US\$150) toward expenses. Codina and Padrón will tour college and university campuses to speak about current developments in Cuba today and specifically about the role of culture. So far, meetings are planned at three universities and one college.

The second week of their trip will be devoted to speaking engagements in other cities in Quebec such as Trois-Rivières, Quebec City, and Chicoutimi that was devastated by heavy floods in August. While the organization of the tour is only at its beginning, interest is growing. Now that campuses are open students are beginning to volunteer to join the organizing committee.

Carole Caron is a member of the *Carrefour culturel d'amitié Québec-Cuba*, and one of the organizers of the conference on culture.

South African textile workers win strike

BY MARTIN HILL

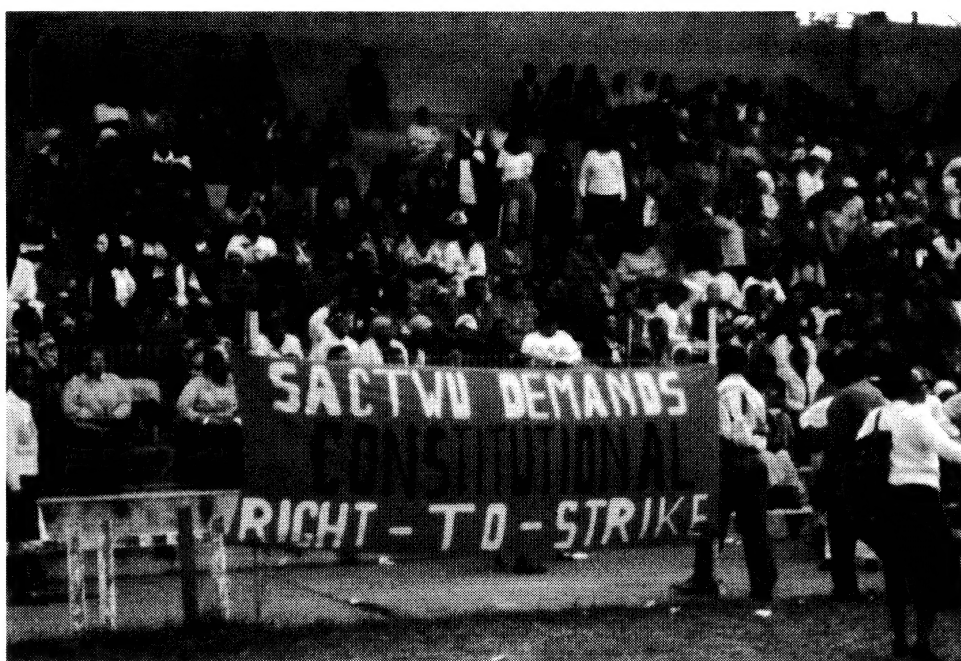
DURBAN, South Africa — A week-long strike by 80,000 textile workers ended in victory for the union August 5, after employers agreed on a 9 percent wage increase, retroactive to July 1. Before the strike, bosses said they could only pay 7 percent, below the annual rate of inflation of 7.5 percent.

The victory, in the first-ever nationwide strike action called by the South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union (SACTWU), represented an important step in strengthening the union. Some 80 percent of union members voted for strike action in support of a 10 percent wage increase, reduction of the workweek from 42 to 40 hours, and other demands to improve working conditions, maternity leave, and pension rights. The union plans to continue campaigning around the demands not yet won, especially for a shorter work week.

Dolly Mwandla, a shop steward who works as a machinist at B. Jonsson's in Durban, said she took home R260 (US\$58) per week. Cleaners, who prepare work for machine operators, get R220. "We need this increase just to stay in the same place," she said. "Food, clothing and transport are all going up. Many women workers are the only breadwinners for a family, but we're treated as cheap labor."

Government figures put inflation at 7.5 percent annually. The purchasing power of wages has been further eroded in recent months by a fall in the value of the South African Rand, pushing up the cost of fuel and other imports.

Mwandla described how the employers tried to divide workers by offering a R10 bonus if they worked normally. "There are



August rally of striking garment workers in Durban, South Africa.

65 of us in our factory," she stated, "but the company owns a bigger factory next door, with over 1,000 workers. I asked the manager, why are you giving us R10 but not the factory next door?" Jonsson's also threatened to relocate to Zimbabwe. "They're trying to frighten us," Mwandla said. "But we know they've got big orders, supplying uniforms to banks and hospitals. We see the managers driving around in expensive cars, how can they say they can't afford to pay us?" Workers in both factories joined the strike.

Another important grievance is opportunities for promotion to better paying posi-

tions. Many workers are unable to find jobs that match their educational qualifications. But when there are clerical vacancies, shop floor workers are never notified, so Black and Indian workers are still denied access to these jobs. "In the new South Africa everything should be changed," said Mwandla, "but the employers don't want to change."

Monica Ishmael, another shop steward, was involved in campaigning to build support for the strike by picketing large retailers selling the struck firms' products. "When we demonstrated outside their stores, they called the police. Some of the police were aggressive, but we explained we were act-

ing peacefully to let people know of our plight."

On July 29 several thousand SACTWU members attended a strike rally at Curry's Fountain football stadium in Durban, one of the main centers of the clothing industry. A large banner proclaimed "1996 - Year of Action for Improved Conditions." Many workers assembled at their workplaces and marched from there to the stadium, waving banners and sticks. Loud cheers greeted each contingent as it arrived.

SACTWU leader Elias Banda said the strikers had to stay firm. "They have not yet felt your power," he stated. "We must stay united so the employers see we really mean business."

Paulus Ngcobo, regional general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in KwaZulu-Natal complained that some government members had criticized recent union actions. "They ask, who is President of this country, Mandela or [COSATU General Secretary Sam] Shilowa? But the President of this country is comrade Nelson Mandela," he said. "The question you need to ask is who puts these people into parliament. In the future you should consider whether such people are qualified to be parliament members, since it seems they are no longer looking at you."

Meanwhile, wage negotiations are in full swing in other industries. Deadlock was reported in the metal and engineering industries. As the textile walkout ended, several thousand fish packers in Western Cape began strike action. Labor actions to defend workers' living standards have alarmed the big-business press. The August 6 Durban *Mercury* called for "worker education about the dynamics of the market place."

British Columbia: NDP undercuts labor's gains

BY PAUL KOURI
AND NED DEMERSON

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Following its reelection May 28, the New Democratic Party government of British Columbia declared a freeze on building a series of educational, health, and other facilities the NDP promised during the election campaign.

The NDP is a social democratic party with formal ties to major unions. The BC Federation of Labor, representing over 200,000 unionized workers in this Canadian province, called for a vote for the NDP and organized the distribution of flyers at plant gates in support of its candidates.

The NDP won 39 seats compared to 33 for the Liberals in the 75-seat provincial legislature. The Reform Party, a right-wing populist party, won two seats. At the dissolution of the previous provincial legislature, the NDP held 50 seats to the Liberals' 14.

In October 1995, the NDP trailed the Liberals by 30 points in the polls. Its leader Mike Harcourt resigned. Plagued by scandals, the NDP's record in office disillusioned many of the workers and youth who elected it in 1991 to replace the right-wing Social Credit government.

Initially after the 1991 election, the NDP government repealed reactionary anti-abortion legislation and introduced a new labor code supported by many workers, which

included a ban on the use of replacement workers during strikes. It wasn't long however, before it closed Shaughnessey, a major hospital in Vancouver, and arrested hundreds of youth and others protesting its decision to allow clearcut logging in Clayoquot Sound, one of the last remaining watersheds of old growth rainforests.

A year ago, it sent a major police detachment to Gustafson Lake to forcibly remove a group of armed Natives and their supporters who have traditionally practiced a religious ceremony there — the Sundance (see article on page 16). And last fall the NDP government declared that anyone moving to British Columbia from another province or country would have to meet a three-month residency requirement before being eligible for social assistance.

In the spring, Glen Clark was elected as the new leader of the NDP. Seeking to bolster the party's image among working people, Clark went on the offensive against the Liberals. He attacked Liberal leader Gordon Campbell, a former real estate developer, for being on the side of the banks and corporations. Campbell had promised to eliminate the capital gains tax on banks and corporations and cut government spending by \$6.6 billion.

During the election campaign the NDP government outlawed the right to strike for hospital and education workers as the possibility for strike action by Surrey school

board workers and hospital workers loomed. At the same time, Clark announced short-term freezes on university tuition fees, on car insurance premiums, and on increasing the minimum wage.

As the election date neared it became evident to many workers that large corporate interests were openly backing the Liberals. The *Vancouver Sun* and the *Province*, the main bourgeois dailies, published editorials calling for a vote for the Liberals.

"Many strikers, other workers, and youth saw their vote for the NDP as a vote against the ruler's attacks," noted Dan Grant, Communist League candidate in Little Mountain in Vancouver.

"A Liberal government will pass anti-worker laws and get rid of the anti-scab provisions in the current labor code," said *Militant* subscriber and Canadian Auto Workers striker Jason Malott, explaining his vote.

Sunny West, a United Food and Commercial Workers picket captain at Save-on-Foods in Burnaby, told the *Militant* she urged members of her union to vote NDP against the Liberals. "They [the Liberals] represent the interests of people like Jim Pattison, who is trying to bust our union." Pattison, a BC billionaire is the owner of Overwaitea Foods. A major drive for concessions by Safeway and Overwaitea led to a province-wide lockout and then a strike by 14,000 UFCW members just days after the election.

"We used our campaign to explain that workers need to rely on our own struggles not voting to advance our interests, which are incompatible with the approach of the



Young activist in Vancouver protests the planned execution of Filipino worker Sarah Mabalagan, September 1995. NDP government has pressed attacks on immigrants and other workers.

NDP to 'humanely' manage the capitalist system," explained Grant, who is a production worker at Domtar and a member of the Communications, Energy and Paper Workers Union.

"My union distributed leaflets at the plant gate urging workers to vote NDP. The following week I along with supporters distributed my campaign leaflet at the plant gate. It explained the need to fight for jobs for all by shortening the work week with no loss in pay, to defend affirmative action for women and Natives, to support Quebec's struggle for independence, and to defend immigrant rights. Most workers took the leaflet and a couple bought copies of the *Militant*, including one who supports the Cuban revolution and wants to get a subscription," concluded Grant.

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Gov't refuses to stop vilifying Atlanta man

BY FLOYD FOWLER

ATLANTA — On August 29 U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno was compelled to respond to a public demand three days earlier from Barbara Jewell that the government clear her son of any wrongdoing in connection with the bombing in Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 27. The explosion killed one person and injured more than one hundred others during the summer Olympic games.

President William Clinton, Barbara Jewell said, "has a moral duty to the citizens of this country. If the FBI does not intend to charge my son, please tell us. Please tell the world."

While insisting that "I understand how she must feel," Reno would neither divulge whether the FBI had any evidence at all against Richard Jewell or if the government had any intention of charging him with any crime after four weeks of what the media has called "intense scrutiny."

Richard Jewell, a security guard in Centennial Park, was initially described in media reports as "a modest man with an athlete's precision" whose "alertness" saved many lives. Jewell helped to evacuate people after he discovered the bomb in a knapsack near a light tower in the park, and was himself knocked to the ground by the force of the explosion.

20,000 U.S. troops deployed in Atlanta

Twenty thousand U.S. military troops were deployed in Atlanta during the Olympic games. Groups of soldiers stood at nearly every downtown intersection and cordoned off every venue throughout the games. The Olympic village resembled an armed encampment, and the *New York Times* reported that there were "three times as many guards as athletes." This deployment was part of the Clinton administration's campaign to expand the powers of the police, the courts, and the state in the name of combating "terrorism."

Within days of the bombing, the FBI had secured a search warrant against Jewell and scores of Dekalb County police and FBI agents descended on his apartment, fol-

lowed by droves of reporters and photographers. "Now, my son has no real life," Barbara Jewell said. "He cannot work. They have taken all privacy from us. They have taken all peace. They have rented an apartment which faces my home in order to keep their cameras trained upon us around the clock. They watch and photograph everything we do." News stories have referred to Jewell and his mother as being "holed up" in the apartment they share, and reported that fact as suspicious behavior.

Richard Jewell's rights to privacy and to be assumed innocent until proven guilty have been trampled on. The FBI "investigation" entailed not only a voice check of the 911 call reporting the bomb and the dismantling and inspection of the bank of phones where the call originated.

Campaign to vilify Jewell

The cops have subjected Jewell to repeated searches of his home and a north Georgia cabin he used, seizure of his truck and video collection, five FBI interviews, the collection of hair samples and fingerprints, confiscation of dozens of boxes of personal possessions and even examination of Barbara Jewell's Tupperware and undergarments.

The campaign to vilify Jewell is a patchwork of allegations and innuendo. A former employer labeled him as overzealous, "too excitable," and "a little erratic." FBI investigators have said he fits their profile of a lone bomber, and without producing a shred of evidence they publicly speculated that "he placed the call" to 911. They quote unnamed "acquaintances" as saying he owned a knapsack "similar" to the one that contained the bomb.

While some people have been caught up in the effort to convict Jewell without benefit of a trial — or even charges against him — many workers are withholding judgment.

At Wilen Manufacturing, a plant here organized by the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, one worker described the Attorney General as "looking at the Bill of Rights the Reno

Canberra: 20,000 march on Parliament



(Left) Aboriginal activist paints Aboriginal flag on Sydney construction worker's shirt. (Below) Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union members listen to Aboriginal speaker at trade union protest August 19 in Canberra, Australia's capital.

Militant photos /Bob Aiken



BY RON POULSEN

CANBERRA, Australia — More than 20,000 working people converged on Parliament House here, in Australia's capital, August 19. The action was initiated by the Australian Council of Trade Unions to protest attacks on union rights, worsening working conditions, and drastic cutbacks in social services by the Liberal/National Party coalition government of Prime Minister John Howard. The assault on the social wage includes higher university fees and reduced state spending for education, cuts in Aboriginal services, tougher requirements for unemployment insurance, and reduction of childcare allowances.

In many factories, mines, and other worksites unions voted to strike for 24 hours in solidarity and in some cases sent busloads of workers to Canberra.

During the rally a few protesters broke through the front doors of parliament and occupied the lobby. Dozens of police and demonstrators were injured in the ensuing scuffle.

The Howard government seized on the minor damage, claiming it was "Australia's worst riot."

The next day, 1,000 Aboriginal activists marched on Parliament House again. Police later arrested demonstrators outside the Old Parliament House in another violent confrontation.

way — the Waco way!" referring to the attack ordered by Clinton and Reno against the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, in 1993. That assault left 86 people dead, including many children.

Another Wilen worker, David Wareham, thought the reason for all the troops during the Olympics "was as a show of force." As for Richard Jewell, Wareham said, the FBI "made him a suspect, but they also made

him their victim. They did not investigate before they made him a suspect. They just attached him to the crime.

"What is happening to Jewell is a symptom of a system that is attacking our democratic rights," he said.

Floyd Fowler is a member of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees at Wilen Manufacturing in Atlanta.

Steelworkers tops push merger, vote for Democrats

BY TIM MAILHOT

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania — The main points taken up at the 28th biannual convention of the United Steel Workers of America (USWA), held here August 5-8, were unification of the Steelworkers with the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the International Association of Machinists (IAM) by the year 2000, and continued support to Democratic party candidates, beginning with William Clinton.

This convention came in the context of a drive by the steel bosses against labor, as they seek to shore up declining profits and beat back their competition, both in the United States and internationally. The share of the steel market controlled by the six largest integrated steel makers, which are generally unionized, has dropped from two-thirds to one-third in the last 20 years.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported in July even that share is shaky for some major steel makers. While many have upgraded and rebuilt their operations and are running at more than 90 percent capacity, profits remain slim. Where before the big producers could maintain high prices through cartel-like agreements, competition is driving the prices down. Their only option for boosting profits is to go after further concessions from the union. A mid-contract wage reopener is being negotiated this year at US Steel and other major producers.

Over the last decade and a half, the steelmakers have already eliminated many jobs, increased productivity, and realigned their investments. The result is that more and more steel is produced in mini-mills, which are largely non-union. George Becker, International President of the Steelworkers, announced during the convention that a special project would be initiated to organize the 250,000 non-union workers in the U.S. steel industry. There was no discussion, however, of a plan on how this

would be carried out.

The USWA membership has fallen from around 1 million in the mid-1970s to 565,000 prior to the union's merger with the United Rubber Workers union a year ago. In his keynote speech to the 2,500 convention delegates, Becker described how over the last two years USWA tops have organized a restructuring of the union into 9 districts instead of the previous 18.

Unions carry out mergers

These organizational steps have brought in 95,000 new members. The general treasury has grown from \$7 million two years ago to \$20 million today. The union's strike fund has also grown, one of the arguments given at the time for the URW merger. Yet one of the first steps by the union officials after that merger was to agree to an unconditional return to work by striking rubber workers at Bridgestone/Firestone.

Merger discussions are currently being carried out with two other unions — the Federation of Aluminum Sector Union in Quebec representing 4,500 workers at Alcan, and the 40,000-member Aluminum, Brick, and Glass Workers union (ABGW). On the final day of the convention, it was announced that the executive board of the ABGW would call a convention and recommend the merger to its members.

In addition to pushing for the unification of the steelworkers with the UAW and Machinists unions, Becker stressed working to re-elect Clinton for president and Democrats to Congress this fall.

Democratic legislators Rep. Maxine Waters from California and Sen. Christopher Dodd from Connecticut spoke at the convention. Clinton also addressed the delegates on the final day of the gathering through a satellite hookup.

The mayor of Pittsburgh, Democrat Tom Murphy, declined to address the convention.

The delegation from District 10, which covers the state of Pennsylvania, had threatened to walk out if he spoke to protest his support for the passage of a state bill severely weakening workmen's compensation benefits.

There was little discussion on how union power could be brought to bear to support ongoing strikes at the *Detroit News*, McDonnell Douglas, or Bayou Steel, though many delegates mentioned these and other labor struggles.

This convention was the second of three international conventions being held this year to discuss the IAM/UAW/USWA merger. The first was an April meeting of the United Auto Workers' Special Collective Bargaining Convention, and the third will be the IAM's constitutional convention, scheduled to begin in Chicago on September 24. The USWA delegates adopted a resolution supporting the unification process.

Solidarity with Bridgestone workers

The convention was attended by representatives of unions from other countries that organize steelworkers.

Some of these have been part of the international "corporate campaign" the Steelworkers union is organizing against Bridgestone/Firestone. Rubber workers at the tire maker's plants in the U.S. were forced out on strike two years ago and scabs were eventually brought in to replace them. Last year the union agreed to return to work, but has yet to get a new contract from Bridgestone.

Solidarity actions have been organized as part of this at Bridgestone's operations in South America and Europe. The representative from Japan, where Bridgestone/Firestone has its headquarters, made a short address to the convention, pledging to continue efforts to pressure the tire maker. He presented a check for \$10,000 for the

union's Bridgestone/Firestone solidarity fund. Following the convention 18 Japanese unionists traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, where they joined about 25 local Bridgestone/Firestone workers to picket two of the company's outlets.

A delegation of striking newspaper workers from Detroit also attended the convention. Kate DeSmet, who had been the religion writer for the *Detroit News*, spoke for the delegation. She said the year-long strike had changed her life "because I've been tear-gassed and pepper sprayed and nearly run over by company trucks....I realized then that these companies, Gannett and Knight Ridder, were willing to kill us to put out a 35-cent scab newspaper."

DeSmet closed by raising the need for a national labor march in Detroit. More than \$5,500 was collected from delegates for the strike fund, which the international matched. After the session the strikers set up a table outside the convention area to sell T-shirts and their strike newspaper.

Convention delegates voted on a range of proposed changes to the union constitution and resolutions. A debate was sparked by a proposal for amalgamating smaller locals into larger units. The steelworkers union has been amalgamating locals since 1988. Some locals opposed how this was forced on them, with little input from affected members and no vote in the affected locals.

Five hundred people attended a "Women of Steel" meeting after the convention session the second day of the gathering. The meeting, which some staffers for the IAM and UAW participated in as well as USWA delegates, included an open microphone to discuss issues facing women in the union. The convention voted to set up a women's department of the USWA.

Tim Mailhot is a member of USWA Local 8285 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Continued from Page 4

the city council has been a battle at each step, since Sinn Fein first won seats in 1983. Their offices at city hall have been bombed, unionist councilors attempted to keep them off committees, insults and derogatory comments were commonplace at meetings, and meetings are deliberately shifted at the last minute by unionists to try to exclude the republican representatives. The Sinn Fein members had to take the council to court to secure many of their rights, including to participate fully in all council committees.

In one indication of the colonial status of the six counties of Northern Ireland, the Belfast city council has no power over housing, welfare allocations, or education, but it can determine allocations for community leisure centers. While funding for a women's center in the Protestant area of Shankill was approved recently, the council tried to deny funds for a similar center in the Catholic area of Falls Road. The Sinn Fein councilors have used their offices to encourage community residents to mobilize for meetings and make their presence felt at City Hall, something unseen before. Marie Moore, another Sinn Fein councilor, told the visiting socialists that the greater number of women participating was also an upsetting prospect for the unionist-dominated council.

The councilors asked the vice presidential candidate several questions about U.S. politics, such as what does the welfare bill recently signed by William Clinton mean, why did the U.S. government deport Irish political prisoner Jimmy Smyth, and where does the fight for independence in Puerto Rico stand today.

Smyth's recent deportation by the U.S. government is not exceptional, Garza said. "Through recent 'anti-terrorist' legislation, Washington has chipped at democratic rights, especially for those who are not citizens. The government now has the right to deport immigrants it claims are supporters of terrorist groups. Without a jury trial, the courts can have activists deported, using 'confidential' evidence. The U.S. government still holds Puerto Rico as a colony, just like London occupies northern Ireland," said Garza, who recently returned from a trip to Puerto Rico where she participated in pro-independence demonstrations.

Visit to prisoners in Long Kesh

Prison is a normal part of life for families throughout the north, Garza learned. Many Catholics have family members or close friends who are serving prison time in Long Kesh. Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and other undemocratic laws, thousands of fighters, predominantly young, have been framed up and convicted in a court system with no jury. Refusal to cooperate with police interrogations and demanding to see a lawyer are assumed to be evidence of guilt.

On August 30, Garza visited Brendan Donaghy and Peter Lynch in Long Kesh, where hundreds of Irish political activists are incarcerated. She was struck by the conditions of prison life compared to U.S. prisons. In 1980 and 1981, republican inmates staged hunger strikes to protest appalling prison conditions, Donaghy explained.

The demands of the hunger strike, including the right to wear their own clothing, exemption from penal labor, and free association and organization were all won. All the prisoners now wear civilian clothing and are free to move throughout the H-block until 10 p.m. After that, prisoners can travel within their wing of the H-block and are not locked into their cells. Although many gains have been won in Long Kesh, prison conditions for Irish nationalists in England remain very harsh, noted Lynch.

Republican prisoners organize classes and have access to several political newspapers and books. Both Lynch and Donaghy asked several questions about Cuba, the struggle of Palestinians for self-determination, and the democratic revolution in South Africa.

During her tour, Garza also visited young members of Sinn Fein. They told her about efforts to build a youth group of Sinn Fein — *Glor na nOg* (Voice of Youth) — to draw more young fighters into the republican movement.

In Bellaghy, a village of about 700, Garza and other visiting socialists were asked by residents to serve as peace observers to aid the community in enforcing an agreement that limited how far the rightist Royal Black Preceptory could march into the Catholic neighborhood. Garza also marched in Strabane at a commemoration to the martyrs of the Irish independence struggle.

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Defend a Woman's Right to Control Her Own Body. The Manitoba Case of Forced Confinement of Native Indian Woman. Speaker: Bonita Murdock, socialist and women's rights activist. Fri., Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24th) Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

France: 15,000 rally for immigrants

Continued from front page

and the police were getting a little embarrassed. So they took me back." The next morning Camara walked out of the courtroom in Bobigny a free man.

The police now say they will have Camara tried for another "crime" — refusing to get on the plane. They say he could be imprisoned for three years.

Demonstrations similar to the one in Paris took place in cities around France at the end of August. Prominent in the Paris actions were the large banners by the CGT and CFDT union confederations.

Behind the union banner of a contingent

of civil servants from the Labor Ministry, Olivier Chazy said that this was his third march that week. "The other two demonstrations were about the same size as this one," he said. He agreed with the remarks of many other protesters that this fall would be "hot" for the government of prime minister Alain Juppé.

Two days later, workers at Air France demonstrated at Charles de Gaulle airport protesting the use of an Air France chartered plane in the deportations.

In addition to the undocumented workers movement, unions are now meeting to plan a series of actions this fall around lay-

offs, wage freezes, plant closures, and other questions. Teachers, civil servants, workers in defense plants, bank employees, garment and textile workers, and workers in gas and electric plants are among those concerned. Farmers, particularly cattle raisers, have also been demonstrating for compensation from the collapse of beef prices in the wake of the "mad cow" disease controversy.

A group of African workers in the August 28 demonstration saw the opportunities that have opened since the strike wave last December. Their banner said "Never Again Alone." They also carried a second banner that read, simply, "Resistance."

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Sell, read 'New International'

The U.S.-organized carnage against the Iraqi people is among the most monstrous in the history of modern warfare. "Is" not "was." Death and dislocation continue today, as does the imperialists' culpability for them. — "Opening Guns of World War III," by Jack Barnes, in *New International* no. 7.

Washington's recent bombing of Iraq and the rulers' continued assaults on working people here and around the world make *New International* no. 7, with "Opening Guns of World War III — Washington's Assault on Iraq," more timely than ever.

The devastation of Iraq did not lead to the dawn of a new world order. The Gulf War held a mirror to the declining capitalist world order and accelerated its contradictions. It signaled the sharpening of interimperialist conflicts, as well as openings that will arise for working people to fight to take state power and move toward socialism in the years ahead. Other articles in that issue of the Marxist magazine tell the hidden history of the GI revolt at the end of World War II—when U.S. troops refused to allow themselves to be used to crush spreading anticolonial struggles—as well as discussing the roots of the militarization drive Washington set in motion at the end of the 1970s.

New International no. 7 is the best weapon working people have to explain the politics of imperialists' aggression around the world. It is a tool needed by the young people and workers who are resisting assaults by the same class that is carrying out the bombings in Iraq.

The articles in *New International* no. 10 — "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War," "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold," and "Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution" — and the book *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* are also essential for understanding the world today and what the working class must do to change it. Another Pathfinder book, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* contains the speeches by Cuban leaders as they denounced Washington's 1990-91 assault on Iraq before the United Nations.

Now is the time to step up selling these books at plant gates, at strikes, on the job, at campuses, at picket lines and demonstrations protesting the war, and everywhere that people are looking for answers to Washington's attacks. We urge our readers to sell, read, and study these revolutionary books with other fighters to help prepare for the larger battles ahead.

U.S. hands off Iraq now!

Continued from front page
derous actions.

Distributing books and newspapers that tell the truth about the history of U.S. aggression in the Mideast, including the 1990-91 U.S.-led war against the Iraqi people, is especially important now. Discussions on Washington's war drive and how to respond are needed among working people on the job, unionists resisting employer assaults, fighters defending immigrant rights, and all who are protesting the bipartisan assault against working people.

Clinton sent U.S. ships and B-52 bombers against Iraq, firing 44 cruise missiles into the country, and has authorized further bombings in the days ahead. As before, their claims of pinpoint accuracy against military targets are false to the core. Clinton, the most dangerous war president in many years, cynically justifies bombing Iraq as part of defending the Kurdish people. But it is Washington and their imperialist allies that have long insured the division of the Kurdish people, setting back their struggle for national self-determination.

This cynical exploitation of Baghdad's repression of the Kurds is not new. At the end of the Gulf War, U.S. and Western European imperialist rulers organized to drive back into Iraq hundreds of thousands of Kurds who had fled into neighboring Iran and Turkey from Saddam Hussein's attacks. They turned emergency relief for them over to the United Nations with a piddling budget. Not one of these imperialist governments ever offered to open their borders to these or other refugees from Baghdad's attacks and provide them with jobs and housing.

The U.S. government's moves to extend the "no-fly" zone to the outskirts of Baghdad today, and prohibit planned oil shipments, flagrantly violate Iraq's sovereignty. These measures are calculated to set up a provocation for further U.S. military action. The U.S. rulers continue to pursue their goal of establishing a protectorate in Iraq, a government subservient to Washington and capable of advancing its interests, first and foremost, to expand their domination of oil reserves in the region. And, above all, Clinton launched the bombing to boost his reelection effort.

In the space of two weeks Clinton has demonstratively shown how he will continue to lead the bipartisan assault on working people at home and abroad. Prior to the Democratic Party convention, he signed legislation backed by both Democrats and Republicans that ended aspects of the social gains won in struggle by working people and codified in the Social Security Act, such

as Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Supplemental Security Income. His speech to the convention outlined the posture of world cop that foretold today's bombing. Clinton also singled out revolutionary Cuba as a target in his acceptance speech, a warning that needs to be taken seriously by all who oppose Washington's unceasing "cold war" against Cuba.

The Clinton administration has continually sent U.S. forces against workers and farmers abroad. Within the past year alone, Clinton's war moves include Yugoslavia, Liberia, the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Straits, Haiti, and Cuba. As tensions rise in Russia, the Mideast, and other parts of the world, the danger that the Clinton administration will again respond with military force becomes greater.

Washington's assaults on Iraq include the devastating slaughter in 1990-91, a war that ended with the gunning down of tens of thousands of fleeing Iraqis on the road to Basra. It includes the economic embargo that has condemned hundreds of thousands of Iraqis to malnutrition, disease, and death. It includes several rounds of bombings of the country under the Bush and Clinton administrations.

Each assault by Washington is a blow against working people and farmers in Iraq and the entire Mideast. They are part and parcel of Washington's threats and economic war against Iran and Libya. The bombing is also a warning to working people—such as those in Palestine and Jordan—who organize to protest against increasingly harsh conditions of capitalist austerity today and fight for self-determination.

The Mideast is a crucial region for the economic, military, and political interests of the billionaire U.S. ruling families who run the United States. It is a region in increasing turmoil because of the devastating impact of the deepening world economic crisis on the oppressed and exploited working people in the semi-colonial world. Washington will more and more resort to direct use of its massive military arsenal in an attempt to keep "order" and a semblance of imperial stability.

Working people around the world need to organize solidarity with the struggle of toilers in the Mideast, and oppose U.S. military aggression in the region by demanding an immediate end to the bombing and the brutal embargo. Our campaign demands the complete withdrawal of all U.S. military forces from the Mideast and the Persian Gulf; and the ending of all economic sanctions against Iraq, Iran, and Libya.

Protests say stop the bombing

Continued from front page

Restaurant Employees union spoke. Elizabeth Kealy from the Socialist Workers campaign condemned "the vicious attack on the Iraqi people's sovereignty." Representatives from the International Action Center, Workers World Party, and Spartacus Youth League also made statements.



BY VED DOOKHUN

SAN FRANCISCO — On September 3, some 120 protesters gathered at the corner of Powell and Market streets in downtown San Francisco during rush hour, demanding an end to the bombings of Iraq. Among the demonstrators were many youth and workers from Iraq who displayed an Iraqi flag, and joined in the chants demanding "No new war against Iraq, stop the bombing now."

In his address to the rally Mohger, a young Iraqi, spoke of the unbearable conditions people face in Iraq as a result of the U.S.-led war in 1991, which he said has left 5.6 million Iraqi refugees. Expressing the sentiment of the protesters, he called on all present to object to the unilateral actions in Iraq by the U.S. forces. In a later interview, Mohger said that the "United States of America has to withdraw from the region and let the people there take care of their own problems."

The demonstration was called by the International Action Center and received coverage from local TV stations.

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

BOSTON — Thirty people protested outside the Federal Building here September 4 demanding an end to the U.S. assault on Iraq. The action was initiated by the Socialist Workers Campaign and the Young Socialists in Boston. Activists from the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, the American Friends Service Committee, the July 26 Coalition that coordinates solidarity activity with Cuba, and others participated. Some participants, including a medical student from Tufts University, heard about the protest through the Internet and a peace hotline. Carol Thomas, a leader of the July 26 Coalition, recalled the principled stand the Cuban government took against the Gulf War. Andrew Buchanan, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Massachusetts, also spoke. The rally was covered by Channel 56 TV, the New England Cable News, and by student newspapers at University of Massachusetts Boston and Boston University.



Protests were also held in several cities around the world. In Britain, rallies were organized September 3 against London's backing of the U.S. bombings and a vigil was held outside the U.S. embassy in London that afternoon.

In Egypt, about 2,000 students marched September 3 in the southern city of Assiut, shouting slogans against U.S. imperialism.

Clinton bombs Iraq

Continued from Page 8

backed the U.S. move.

Paris, on the other hand, criticized the Pentagon's military attack. It demanded that Baghdad pull back its forces from the north but called for a resumption of talks to implement the UN resolution allowing Iraq to resume its oil sales. The French government is Iraq's biggest creditor.

The Russian government, which had backed the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 1990-91, called the U.S. air strikes "an inappropriate and unacceptable reaction." Russian foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov stated, "The attacks cannot be supported by anyone at all, except those who put domestic politics including pre-electoral questions above all else." The Chinese government expressed its "grave concerns" about the U.S. actions.

Paris and Moscow opposed an effort by Washington and London to garner support in the UN Security Council for a resolution condemning Iraq.

In the Middle East, only the Kuwaiti regime expressed "full understanding" for the attack, as did the Israeli government. The governments of Egypt and Syria, Washington's main Arab partners during the Gulf War, criticized the U.S. assault and spoke in defense of Iraq's sovereignty. The governments of Iran, Jordan, Libya, and Yemen, as well as the Palestinian Council, all condemned or distanced themselves from Washington's action. The Saudi regime remained silent. And the Turkish regime opposed the suspension of the oil sales.

The governments of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Turkey refused to allow its bases to be used for the U.S. strikes. Instead, Washington had to fly its B-52 bombers from Guam, halfway around the world.

'Much has changed since Gulf War'

As an article in the September 4 *Wall Street Journal* put it, "Indeed, much in the region has changed since the U.S. rallied a coalition in 1990 to drive Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait.... The U.S. increasingly may have to go it alone — such as by launching cruise missiles rather than leading an international coalition."

At that time, Washington used Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait as a justification for leading a massive military assault against Iraq. The U.S. rulers' political objectives in the Gulf War, however, were to overthrow the Hussein regime and establish a pro-U.S. protectorate there. Washington hoped to bolster its dominance in the oil-rich region, and to do so at the expense of its imperialist allies which are also its competitors.

What unfolded was a U.S.-organized slaughter that left as many as 150,000 people dead. During the final invasion launched on Feb. 24, 1991, tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers were butchered as they fled along the road from Kuwait to Basra, Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of working people were left maimed, homeless, or displaced throughout the region.

But Washington failed to achieve its political goals, ending up with a fiasco on its hands. The U.S. government did not overthrow the Iraqi government; in fact, Hussein outlasted President George Bush. Instead of assuring stability, the war exacerbated all the tensions and conflicts in the Middle East, leading to greater social volatility and setting new, uncontrollable forces in motion.

In the wake of the war, the Kurdish and Shiite populations rebelled against Baghdad. But they were set up by the Bush administration, which after urging them to revolt, allowed Baghdad's forces to massacre them. Washington, London, and Paris sent troops to drive thousands of Kurdish refugees, who were fleeing into Turkey, back into northern Iraq, where the imperialist powers established the current Kurdish "enclave."

The political shifts in the Middle East in the subsequent five years have caused a nightmare for U.S. imperialism. The Iranian government, which remains at odds with Washington, has increased its political influence in the region. On the other hand, most of the U.S. allies have been wracked by increasing instability, as underlined by the June bombing of a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia and the food riots in Jordan in August.

The Turkish government, a long-time reliable U.S. ally, has a new administration that recently signed a trade deal with Iran against Washington's will.

And the Israeli regime, despite its combination of military repression and political negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization, has failed to quell the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

In a September 4 article, *Times* columnist Thomas Friedman commented on the dilemma facing the U.S. rulers today. "The half-finished gulf war and the half-finished Arab-Israeli peace process and the half-baked U.S. containment policies of both Iran and Iraq... have failed to produce a new order the Middle East," he wrote.

"Instead, they have contributed to a regional disorder, in which Washington doesn't have a united front to support its strategies or many partners to help manage its contradictions."

N.Y. hospital workers push back concessions

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers

told the *Militant* August 23. "One woman who crossed the picket line has already been suspended for five days for reading a newspaper while supposedly on duty... If we were to give in other unions would have a harder time."

Union negotiators approved an

vidual contracts. The company has set up a night shift to train new hires.

"I want a guaranteed 40 hours a week work, and I haven't had a wage rise for 3 1/2 years" said one worker to the city's major daily newspaper. The workers are either "shuckers," who remove the flesh of the shellfish from their shells, and packers. Working at high speed on a bonus system, the shuckers can make relatively good money, but the packers, who have to keep pace, generally make less than NZ\$9 (US\$6.21) an hour. "We are fighting for the packers" said a shucker to the *Militant*. Both categories of worker mingle on the picket line, and their mood is upbeat and confident.

The workers have mounted daily picket lines to publicize their demands. The pickets are also aimed at the minority of workers who still enter the plant — some of whom are newly-hired trainees. The pickets have scored some notable successes — workers have joined the union after discussions with picketers, and people turning up for job interviews have also stopped to hear the union case. *Militant* reporters on the picket line saw two Asian interviewees who talked to the pickets, and said they were disgusted with the company's behavior.

The union has offered to resume negotiations but at the time of writing the company has not replied.

drivers, technicians and security guards. About 21,000 of these people make between the current minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour and the new minimum wage, effective in 1997, of \$5.15 per hour. The union is demanding a monthly salary of \$100 above the minimum wage.

The Teachers Federation, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers in the United States, only began to organize non-teaching workers in the Education Department three years ago. In Puerto Rico most teachers are members of the Federation or the Teachers Association but they have no right to collective bargaining. The Association, which is affiliated with the National Education Association in the United States, operates in Puerto Rico as a professional association, while the Federation operates as a union. Even without the right to collective bargaining the Federation has called strikes that have shut the school system down.

On August 25 the Federation held an assembly of non-teaching workers that was attended by several hundred people. The purpose of the assembly was to map out future plans. The assembly was held on the Río Piedras campus of the University of Puerto Rico.

Jorge Ramirez is a cook at a technical school in the Río Piedras sec-



Militant/Susan LaMont

70 people picketed and rallied on August 21 at Bruno's supermarket headquarters condemning the store for carrying Prime mushrooms. Workers at Prime are waging an organizing drive to join the United Farmworkers Union.

tion of San Juan. He works six hours per day and takes home \$484 per month. As a temporary employee he does not have benefits such as health insurance. "If the Teachers Federation is going to struggle for us as they have for the teachers," said Ramirez, "this will be good."

Susan LaMont member of United Steelworkers Local 2122 in Fairfield, Alabama; Jason Corley in New York; Mike Peters member of the Engineers Union in Christchurch, New Zealand; and Ron Richards in San Juan, Puerto Rico, contributed to this column.

ON THE PICKET LINE

around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

NEW YORK — On August 24, union negotiators here announced a settlement in the strike by 6,000 hospital workers. The members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 144, who walked out June 27, held off most of the concessions demanded by the employers and won some of their demands.

Hospital management — organized in the League of Voluntary Hospitals — pushed a contract that would have slashed vacation and sick time by 50 percent, lowered wages for new hires by as much as 35 percent and created an open-ended two-tier with new employees never reaching current union scale, and denied some pension payments. The bosses broke off negotiations July 3 after the striking orderlies, nurses' aides, and hospital clerks rejected the proposed management contract.

Strikers remained firm, however, maintaining round-the-clock picket lines and winning solidarity from other workers. Contract talks resumed by mid-August.

Morale outside the Mary Immaculate Hospital in Queens, for example, was high even after a few union members crossed picket lines. "Management will demand even more if we give in now," one striker

agreement that includes no cuts in sick time or vacation. The accord does institute a two-tier wage scale, but of a more limited scope than management demanded. New hires will get 15 percent less than top pay the first two years of the contract and 10 percent less the third year, reaching current union scale in 36 months. The hospitals will begin paying into the pension fund the third year of employment.

The union had demanded wage increases of some 3 percent per year during the three-year contract. According to SEIU negotiators, the new contract includes instead yearly lump sum payments of \$750 for current union members. The union reportedly won an increase in management contributions to health benefits from 12 percent to 15 percent of gross wages.

Seafood workers fight for contract in New Zealand

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Fifty United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union members at Pacifica seafoods here are waging a determined contract fight. First locked out several weeks ago for holding rolling stoppages, they returned to work as negotiations between union and employer representatives resumed. After the talks broke down they instituted a go-slow, producing "quality and not quantity" according to their union organizer. On August 19 the company locked them out again, claiming "disruptive practices."

A small minority of workers remain outside the union on indi-

Puerto Rico school workers demand raise

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — About 50 non-teaching employees of the Education Department picketed the central offices of the department at lunch time on August 20. The picket line was to demand higher salaries and better working conditions. The Teachers Federation organized the lunch time picket as well as pickets that were held later in the day at the department's regional offices in various cities throughout this U.S. colony.

The Education Department has 25,000 people employed as cooks,

LETTERS

Fighting for union rights

Two hundred people participated in a protest meeting in Miami on August 10 against the Peerless clothing firm. The meeting expressed solidarity with over 2,000 workers who are fighting for their rights to organize a union at Peerless in Montreal. The meeting was sponsored by the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE).

For several months the workers at Peerless have fought to organize a union and against company attacks on their rights. Franklin Valois, who was fired by Peerless because of his union activity said, "We are fighting for a wage raise and for respect. Workers' rights are violated, sexual harassment is used constantly against women." He said that "around 70 percent of the workers are women and 90 percent are immigrants."

Participating in the protest were 30 workers from Deerfield Beach, who are themselves involved in organizing a union at the 'Kitchen of the Ocean,' a shrimp processing plant. More than a dozen workers from the Yoo Hoo bottling plant in Hialeah, who have just won a union organizing victory against the company and joined UNITE, attended the solidarity event. Members of the Farmworkers Association, activists from the Committee for Dignity and Justice for Immigrants, and several strikers from the *Detroit Free Press* participated as well.

A dozen members of the National Organization for Women joined the

protest meeting after holding their demonstration against sexual discrimination practices outside the Tire Kingdom company.

One of the speakers at the meeting was Marlene Bastien, a leader of the organization of Haitian Women in Miami. "I'm concerned about the rights of workers not only because in my country workers' rights are not respected," she said, "but I believe that the workers are the most important people in every society."

At the end of the protest, one of the Peerless workers addressed the crowd. He said that during the last three months workers at Peerless traveled to Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C. to build solidarity with their struggle. *Rollande Girard Miami, Florida*

Day of protest in Ireland

Twenty-five years ago, August 11, 1971, in an attempt to crush Nationalist resistance, the British government introduced mass intern-



ment without trial in Northern Ireland. In the early dawn hours, British armored units and paratroopers swept through Nationalist communities, dragging thousands of "suspects" from their beds. Thousands were being held in overcrowded jails, concentration camps, and improvised prison ships. Detainees were routinely tortured.

Britain's terror tactics were a complete failure, as the oppressed communities exploded in revolt. Since that time the anniversary of internment has been a day of mass protest by the Nationalist community and the Republican movement.

This year's march began in the Poleglass housing development, seven miles from Belfast city center. The march was trailed by a for-

mation of 12 armored vehicles, armed cordons, and heavily armed RUC and soldiers guarded major intersections. As bands marched up to the various police bases they would halt and play Republican songs and chant "I-RA, I-RA, victory..."

By the time the march reached city hall, it had swelled to more than 12,000 protesters. The main speaker at the rally was Belfast Sinn Fein representative, Dodie McGuinness, who lashed the British government for their refusal to begin all party peace talks. "We do not seek to harm the Protestant community or the Loyalist institutions, but they can not be allowed to go on trampling the rights of others.... We will not stop struggling for equality and justice, and for the withdrawal of Britain from Ireland. Sinn Fein is not going to go away; we will not accept second class citizenship."

Roy Inglee Wilmington, Delaware

Meatpacker killed on job

A Lundy packing company employee fell into an industrial "blender" August 20. Clinton police

ruled it an industrial accident and turned it over to OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration]. The blender is a boneless meat grinder and the employee, Solomon Velasquez was supposed to stand on a catwalk and use a high-pressure hose to clean the machine. The blender had to be turned on so the meat scraps would wash down into the bottom.

According to the police, a coworker said he had talked with Velasquez a few minutes prior to hearing a loud noise in the blender area. When he and a few others employees investigated, they found Velasquez's body.

The county medical examiner, Carl Barr said, "The whole thing is illogical."

The fatality happened in a plant with historical malice against employees. The owner of Lundy, Annabelle Fetterman, has a history of anti-unionism. The union was ratified about seven years ago, and finally, workers could be assured that stipulations against them would end such as time limits on visits to the bathroom and presenting viable proof to be excused to attend funerals.

James Robinson Clinton, North Carolina

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Sweden: protests push back rightists

BY MARIA HAMBERG
AND DAG TIRSEN

TROLLHÄTTAN, Sweden—The local authorities in Trollhättan gave permission for Neo-Nazis to march through downtown here on August 17. The event is a yearly celebration to commemorate Rudolf Hess, who worked closely with Hitler and was imprisoned in Spandau in Berlin until he committed suicide 1987. Last year the march occurred in Roskilde, Denmark. All nazi-marches have been forbidden in Germany.

Trollhättan is the city where there was a brutal attack against two Somali youth and a Muslim mosque was burned down 1993. That year there were many ways working people in the town opposed the attacks. For example, several Christian churches organized fundraising activities to help pay for the reconstruction of the mosque.

When it became known that local politicians gave permission for the right-wingers to march, there was a storm of protests in Trollhättan, and nationally. Protest meetings and counter demonstrations were announced to be held in Trollhättan. They were all denied permission, making it illegal to demonstrate. But the protests forced the local chief of police to change the permit of the nazi march to a standing meeting.

Forces opposed to the counter mobilization — Amnesty International and the Red Cross — arranged a meeting in a suburb, five kilometers south of the center of Trollhättan. The social democratic government threw in its support and sent the Minister of Justice, Laila Freiwalds, to speak at the meeting.

The government together with most local politicians, except the Liberal Party and the Young Left, asked all people living in Trollhättan to stay inside and avoid the nazi-meeting. They said in a public call that ignoring the nazis, not giving them any special attention, was the best thing to do.

The statement insisted if people wanted to protest the nazis they should do so at the meeting where the minister of justice spoke, or at a big meeting at the carnival, Liseberg, in Gothenburg. At the carnival there would be a gathering of famous Swedish artists to protest racist violence, especially a brutal murder of a 14-year-old boy, John Hron, last August.

In spite of this campaign to halt protest actions, the Liberal party and the Young Left (the youth organization of the Swedish former Communist Party) mobilized for a counter demonstration. At least 900 people gathered in front of the railway station. Many were angry local people, both Swedes and immigrants, but there were also hundreds from other cities in Sweden and several bus loads of anti-fascist youth from Norway and Denmark.

Some 600 cops, with horses, dogs, and anti-riot equipment were guarding the nazi-meeting.

The crowd prevented the nazis from appearing in front of the railway station where the cops had permitted them to gather. Instead, the cops directed the racists to a hid-



Youth in Gothenburg, Sweden, protest racist deportations of Kurds earlier this year. Militant/Catharina Tirsén

den corner in the rail yard.

The counterdemonstration gathered calmly and orderly, but after a while four cops mounted on horses attacked the crowd riding rapidly back and forth pushing people to the sides. One woman was pushed to the ground and was hurt by the hoofs.

Groups of anarchist-influenced people disguised by handkerchiefs hurled a rain of rocks against the attacking mounted cops, hitting the cops and onlookers. They also made repeated rushes away from the crowd

attempting to get through the cops lines from behind.

Behind the cops lines the nazis held their meeting carrying pictures of Rudolf Hess, shouting "sieg heil," and made the nazi salute. Before the demonstration the cops pledged to arrest every one that shouted any fascist slogan. But, as it turned out, no nazi was arrested.

After some time, they were escorted out from the rail yard from behind into buses provided by the cops. They were driven to a

concert at an "unknown" place — a nazi concert in a Gothenburg suburb.

The police arrested 13 participants in the counter demonstration; the youngest was 12 years old. One woman was arrested for handing out leaflets, the reason given was that "no political activities were allowed in the area." One of the arrested has been kept in jail accused of carrying a "bomb."

Evelina, a 20-year-old jobless worker, and Anders, a 19-year-old student, who came with friends in a car from a town a couple of hours drive away, told the *Militant* they "came to show resistance, not tolerance, racist violence has gone way to far."

One young woman, Liselotte, 25, who had spent a year in Spain and feared the rightists all over Europe, said she thought the politicians in Trollhättan and the government were wrong. "I doubted myself if I should go out, they did tell us we should stay inside. If they had not said so, more people would have been here. I am afraid of the nazis and skinheads, but I forced myself to come here." She added, "we were seeking a safe place near a house wall to escape the police horses."

Kristin Öhman, an unemployed community worker, 42, said she was there "to fight. It is wrong that the nazis can meet here, and I think it is good that people from other places have come here."

Maria Hamberg is a member of the Metal Workers Union, at Scania truck plant in Södertälje and Dag Tirsén is a member of the Food Workers Union, at Goman meat packing plant in Stockholm

Native Canadians fight for land rights

BY ROGER ANDREWS

SURREY, British Columbia —Eighteen people are on trial in this Vancouver suburb following a government and police assault last summer on Native Indian rights at Gustafsen Lake in north central British Columbia. The defendants, 14 of whom are Native, face charges ranging from trespass and public mischief to possession of firearms dangerous to the public peace.

Two defendants, Jones (Wolverine) Ignace and his son JoJo, are also charged with attempted murder for allegedly firing on police. Ignace has been imprisoned since his arrest last year and his repeated requests for release on bail have been denied by the courts.

The police assault was the latest chapter in a decades-long government campaign against the Shuswap Indian people's struggle for land rights. Ottawa and the provincial government of British Columbia back the claim of a rancher to several tens of thousands of acres of Shuswap land, including the shoreline of Gustafsen Lake. But the Shuswap have never signed a treaty nor recognized anyone's purchase or claim to this land.

"Here's a rancher with tens of thousands of acres," defendant Suniva Bronson said during a break in the trial on August 19, "while the entire Shuswap people have hardly any land. Yet they are criticized for being poor and collecting welfare."

Every spring for seven years, Native residents and friends have camped on the shore of Gustafsen Lake for reli-

gious and cultural ceremonies called sundance. In May 1995, they built a fence to prevent cattle from despoiling the site. The rancher demanded their eviction.

What led to confrontation

Several weeks later, the British Columbia government approved a massive Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) operation to violently break up the Native encampment. Hundreds of heavily armed police were mobilized and began threats and provocations. Units of the Canadian army joined the buildup in August 1995. By the middle of that month a siege was in place.

The besieged Natives were painted as heavily armed and were falsely accused of firing on police. "What do you do with people who defy the laws of the country and shoot at you?" an RCMP SWAT team member told a television journalist in July. "You kill them."

Authorities tried to exploit alleged support from government-funded tribal councils of the Shuswap people. But despite media claims repeated by RCMP cops at the trial, only a few members of the councils supported the police operation.

Testimony by police at the trial has contradicted the government claim that the encampment was an illegal occupation. Several cops who had been assigned to the dispute in its early stage and who are Native testified that their investigations in June and early July 1995 concluded that there was a decades-long land claim dispute in question and the rancher's complaint should be handled through a political process. They said their superiors concurred.

The staff commander, however, of the RCMP detachment in the nearby town of 100 Mile House, one of dozens of cops testifying, offered the official line at the trial on August 19 this year. Under cross-examination, he said he backed the rancher's claim from the start and based his decision on "hearsay evidence" gathered from some non-Native residents. He acknowledged the rancher did not possess a survey nor other documentation to prove his claim to the land surrounding the lake.

The cop also shed light on a public relations frame-up he orchestrated, one of many staged by the force. He admitted that police

had no proof that a cache of weapons allegedly smuggled out of the encampment and intercepted on August 19, 1995, originated there. A much-publicized press conference and display of weaponry was staged on that day, aimed at fanning the flames of fear among local residents and justifying an eventual armed assault on the encampment.

He surprised many in the courtroom when he admitted that there were no fingerprint tests ever conducted on the weapons, saying it was "overlooked."

The most serious police assault on the encampment occurred on September 11 last year. Suniva Bronson and two other occupants of a truck set out to fetch water and miraculously escaped injury when their vehicle was blown up by a remote-controlled land mine detonated by cops. Police sharpshooters then opened fire, showering the camp with thousands of rounds. Bronson was shot in the arm even though she had moved back in an area the police had earlier declared a "safe zone."

The occupation ended peacefully on September 17 with the arrests of the 18.

Trial, defense effort unfold

Jones Ignace is pursuing his fight for release from prison. He has been denied bail since his arrest. "Maybe because I stand up and speak my rights, is that why they keep me in?" Ignace asked the court on July 15 during another bail release hearing. "It's not only us on trial," he told the judge. "This court is also on trial."

The trial is expected to continue for many months. The big-business media in British Columbia and across Canada have maintained a news blackout of the proceedings.

"The government campaign at Gustafsen Lake was a murder operation to crush a legitimate protest," Bill Lightbown, one of the participants in the encampment, said in an interview. "If we let them get away with such things then we will eventually be overwhelmed by a police state with no justice."

"That's why we must speak up and organize to defend the Gustafsen 18."

The committee organizing the defense is asking that letters of support and funds be sent to: Ts'peten (Gustafsen) Trust Fund, Box 6475, Hinton AB T7W 1X7, British Columbia, Canada.

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